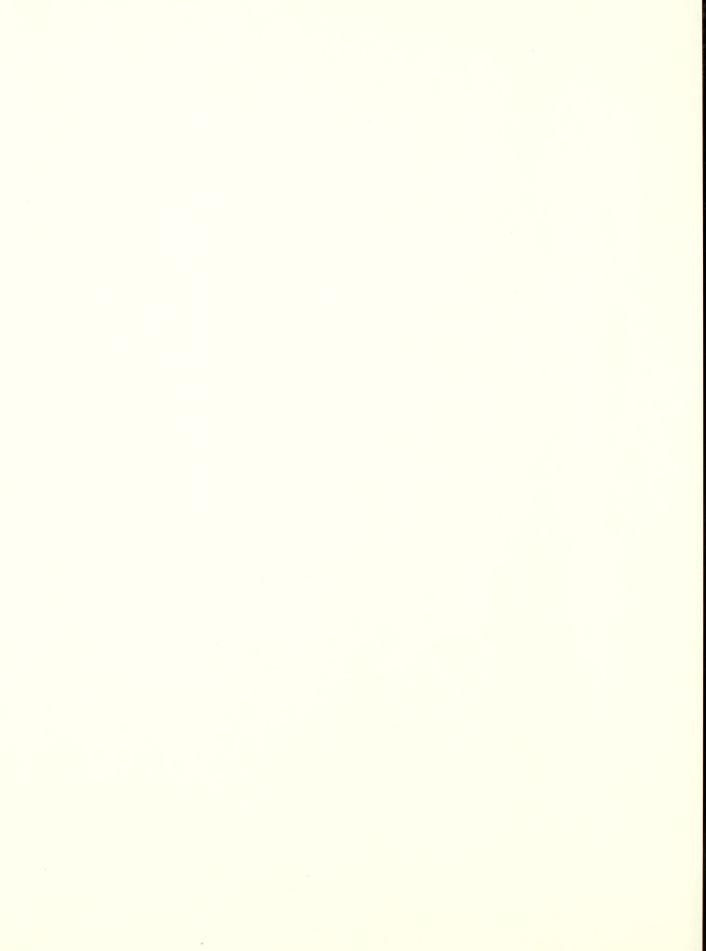
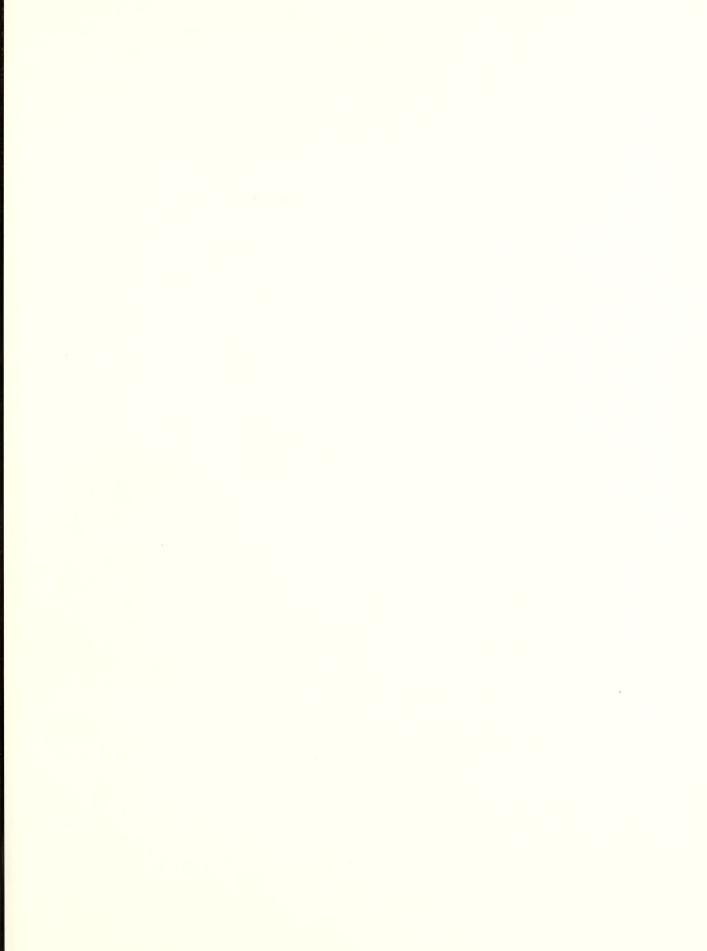
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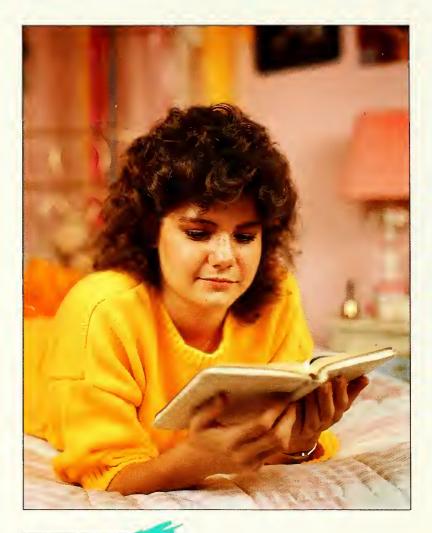
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he Bible holds up before us ideals that are within sight of the weakest and the lowiest, and yet so high that the best and the noblest are kept with their faces turned ever upward. It carries the call of the Saviour to the remotest corners of the earth; on its pages are written the assurances of the present and our hopes for the future.

-William Jennings Bryan





JANUARY 1988

This issue introduces a new look in layout. The new logo and grapic designs are the work of L. Travis Kirkland, director of graphics, and Dave Sargent, graphic designer. We hope you like what we've done as we strive to give you the best youth magazine available.



If you think the best thing about a youth activity is the closing prayer, look at this. . . .

p. 10



Is there a better way to practice the art of living? Can participating in Bible '88 help me?

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Choosing a College

WHAT ARE the important factors in selecting a college to attend? A New York market research firm surveved college-bound seniors across the United States and came up with these figures:

- 69 percent say the location is important. The closer a campus is to home, the better.
- 62 percent say the cost is impor-
- 40 percent mention the curriculum or courses offered.

- 30 percent look at social life. They usually mention the opportunity to meet members of the opposite sex.
- 19 percent consider the athletic program.
- 11 percent choose a college because relatives or friends attended it.
- 8 percent say the quality of campus food will determine where they go to school.

-USA TODAY

Youthful Evangelist

I WAS INVITED by the overseer of England to go to that country and conduct some revival meetings. After praying and fasting about it, I felt in my heart God was giving me the direction to go.

In England God proved Himself to me many times. There were great outpourings of His Spirit. In a threemonth period 56 were converted and 106 baptized in the Holy Spirit.

A 63-year-old man from the small English town of Bolton had been seeking for the baptism of the Holy Spirit for six months. On Thursday night he came to the altar, and the Holy Ghost picked him up. When he fell on his back, he began speaking in a beautiful, heavenly language. Later, I learned that he had had a back problem for many years. He received the miracle of healing and the precious gift of the Holy Spirit that night.

I am striving to obey Paul's instructions in 2 Timothy 4:2, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

Randy Johnson



Tachsha Keller, Junior Miss

TENNESSEE'S JUNIOR Miss for 1988, Tachsha Keller, enjoys worshiping with her family at the North Cleveland Church and participates in service and fellowship activities with the youth group.

A delightful and talented teen, Tachsha was crowned the state's Junior Miss in a ceremony in late November. Judges chose her, the Cleveland Junior Miss, from a group of 33 contestants who represented cities across the state. The title gives Tachsha \$2,400 in scholarships and awards. In addition, she is also eligible for scholarships at Lee College, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Tennessee Wesleyan College.

The Junior Miss program is sponsored by Jaycees and the Junior Miss Foundation. It is designed to recognize the highest ideals and best qualifications among the teenage participants. Winners are selected on the basis of character, personality, scholarship, intelligence, extracurricular activities, talent and general appearance.

At her church, Tachsha sings with the New Dimension Singers (teen choir) and the youth ensemble. She is also a member of the youth handbell choir, which won the national Teen Talent competition in 1986.

The Cleveland High School senior is a Raider Scholar and ranks fourth scholastically in her class. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Honor Society and is a senior represen-

tative in the Anchor Club. She also has found time to captain the varsity football cheerleading squad.

School, and Linda, a secretary in the General Department of Education of the Church of God International Offices.



In preliminary competition Tachsha received the Scholastic Achievement Award on the local level. In state competition she won awards for physical fitness, and poise and appearance. She will represent Tennessee in the televised National Junior Miss program in Mobile, Ala., on June 25.

For her creative and performing arts presentation, Tachsha will sing "Amazing Grace," sign it for the deaf and play handbells.

Tachsha is the daughter of Danny Keller, a guidance counselor at Bradley Central High

Passing Fads



THE PERCENTAGE of college students who say these things are out of style:

93%-wide ties

86%-neon colors

81%-painter's pants

72%-torn T-shirts

-Roper Organization



BECAUSE IT HELPS ME AT HOME, SCHOOL AND CHURCH. IT EXPANDS MY LEARNING ABOUTGOD.

JOHNI-LYNN ARNOLDI31 PERSONAL BIBLE-KIV

Why Do You Read the Bible?

THE YOUTH GROUP at the Live Oak Church of God in Hinesville, Ga., is a lively group of teens. They enjoy fabulous times in fun activities, witness in a strong way to their community and make a dramatic contribution to the spiritual life of their church. Pastor Tommy Propes asked some of the teens, "Why do you THE BIBLE read the Bible?" Here's what they BECAUSE IT 15

said.

ST THE EVIL. AND THE WAY THE WORLD IS, I FEEL LIKE I REALLY NEED THAT SWORD, READ JOHN DOWNS, 16 THE BIBLE BECAUSE I

I WANTMY PERSONAL BIBLE. KIV SPIRIT FILLED WITH

IREAD

MY SWORD AGAIN-

THE WORD OF GOD. IF I DO THAT, I BELIEVE I WON'T SIN AGAIN ST GOD.

RODNEY POLLEME, 16 PERSONAL BIBLE, NIV

READIHE

BIBLE BECAUSE

WANT TO KNOW HOW A CHRISTAIN SHOULD ACT. I FIND THE BIBLE INTERESTING, ANDM GIVES ME STRENGTH 10 LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE. SAN*DY BRADLEY. 15* TETSONAL BIBLE-LB

I READ THE BIBLE BECAUSE IT IS NECESSARY IF I WANT TO WALK WITH GOO.

DAPHANIE WIGGINS, 15 PERSONAL BIBLE, KIV

CAUSE BELIEVE EVERY WORD IT SAYS. IT HELPS MEBE A BETTER CHRISTIAN. STACIA WIGGINS, 13 PERSONAL BIBLE, KIN

> BECAUSE 113 AGOOD BOOK TO READ AND 11 ANSWERS QUESTIONS. CHAD HAMILTON, 14 PERSONAL BIBLE, KSV & NIV

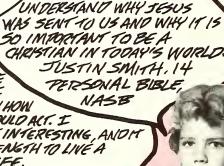
I READ THE BIBLE BECAUSE IT ANSWERS A LOT OF QUESTIONS I HAVE ABOUT LIFE.

WENDY SANDS, 14 PERSONAL BIBLE LB

I READ 1HE BIBLE TO LEARN ANDI USE ITAS A GUIDE IN MY LIFE EVERY DAY.

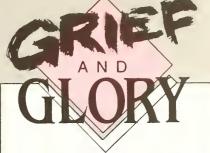
JASON TOMPKINS, 15 PERSONAL BIBLE-KTY











Touched by the Spirit

I am 20 years old. I went to church tonight feeling kind of down but when I read "Happiness Is a Choice" and "Why God Says Wait" (October issue), I felt something touch my heart deep within. Thanks, Lighted Pathway, for printing articles dealing with the real world and for being a magazine we young people can understand and relate to.

—Judy Chase Alamogordo, New Mexico

Obeying God

You asked what God has been impressing us with lately. I feel God does not want me to hang around people who pull me down, or follow those who hurt me spiritually. He wants me to witness to them because we are the light of the world.

-Daniel Redman Mechanicsville, Virginia

Pen Pal

I'm a Cree Native American, 24 years old. My hobby is drawing sketches of Bible stories and writing. Could you possibly print a pen pal request in your publication.

-Merlin LaMere P.O. Box 14 #8-37 Boise, Idaho 83707

BIBLE REAL

How to keep from getting bored with the begats.

I WAS TAUGHT at an early age that it is important to read the Bible. But it never became clear to me why I needed a daily time of reading the Word until I was in high school. I thought that going to church, playing an instrument, and praying occasionally in the altar would give me all the Christian fundamentals I needed to live a Christlike life. These things are important, but it's pretty hard to live like Christ if you never read of His life or His instructions.

Perhaps you are like a lot of youth—you realize the importance of the Word of God in your life but have not made a commitment to read it on a regular basis.

There is no problem a teen faces that someone did not face in the Bible. It may appear in a different form, but basically it is the same. I often wondered if Christ faced peer pressure, depression, rejection or hurt feelings. Sure He did, and we can look into His Word to find out how He handled these problems.

The Bible is not just an old history book passed down through time; it is God revealing His plan to His people. The Bible is not just for adults; even children can understand why Jesus died on the Cross. The

Word of God is meant for all of us.

How can Pentecostal youth stay in the Word?

1. Commit to reading the Bible on a daily basis.

If you are involved in football, basketball, band, choir or other extracurricular activities, you are asked to make a commitment to practice long hours. It's hard work. However, this commitment enables you to learn the game plan, the music or some special function, then perfect it for the actual performance.

Reading the Word takes discipline and commitment. The average youth has so much going on during a day that it is real easy to let devotions slip. A daily commitment to God must not be overlooked. We are performing every day in life. The Word of God is where we learn the game plan.

2. Make Bible reading creative.

I was really fired up one Sunday night after church, and I went home intending to read a book of the Bible every night. I started with Matthew. Needless to say, I didn't make it halfway through the "begats" before I totally cooled off. I realized then that reading the Bible can be complex and a little boring.

I encourage you to adopt a

DAVID BLAIR

MG is for Teens!

method of reading that breaks up different sections of the Word so that there is always something interesting to read. I highly recommend *The One Year Bible* used in the Bible '88 campaign. This approach—reading 10 minutes a day with selections from the Old and New Testaments—is a creative way to

keep the Bible interesting. No one likes the same thing over and over; we all like variety. Make Bible reading creative.

3. Make Bible reading consistent.

The average youth in America watches from four to six hours of television a day. This means

the world and all its corruption has a consistent means of getting to us. It's almost like an IV in the arm; TV feeds us and we don't realize it.

If the average youth can spend four hours a day watching television, then surely we as Pentecostal youth can give 10 minutes a day to God and read the entire Bible through in a year. It is not the big gushes of water but the small steady drops that fill the bucket. Make daily devotions a consistent part of your life.

4. Make Bible reading challenging.

We all love a challenge. Let someone challenge us to a game of Ping-Pong or a pizzaeating contest, and boy, it's World War III! We can make Bible reading challenging by constantly asking questions like "How does this apply to my life?" or, "How can I share this with a friend?" Challenge yourself to read 10 minutes a night. Read the entire Bible this year.

The Bible is the most important Book of all times. It's been around for years, but it will be here for etemity. Do not miss the greatest Book ever written.



David Blair is a Minister of Youth at North Cleveland

What about these new translations?
How did we get the English
Bible? Here are some questions
you always wanted to ask. . . .

YOUAND MOSSIBLE STATES OF THE STATES OF THE

IS IT ALL RIGHT to read a modern-language version of the Bible?

It is all right to read the Word of God in contemporary English, but be sure you know something about the version you are reading.

What are some modern-language versions you recommend?

The New International Version (NIV) is good. So are the New American Standard Bible (NASB) and the New King James Version (NKJV). Phillips (PH) and the Living Bible (LB) are good paraphrases.

What is a paraphrase?

When your pastor reads a verse from the Bible, then restates the thought in common language, he is paraphrasing. He is not attempting to quote it word for word or translate it from the original Greek.

What are some other ways to translate the Bible?

The Good News Bible (GNB) is called a "dynamic equivalence" translation. This means that instead of a literal translation, the translators asked, "What does the biblical text mean?" and tried to find the equivalent meaning in contemporary English. The NASB is called a word-for-word translation. It is considered to be the most literal word-for-word translation on the market today.

Did Paul read the King James Version of the Bible?

No. The Bible known as the King James Version was commissioned by King James I of England in 1604. It was completed and issued in 1611.

Who translated it?

Fifty-four Greek and Hebrew scholars were organized in six groups of nine men, each group assigned to work on a separate portion. Each group submitted its work to the other five for evaluation. Then it was submitted to a review committee before the final version was accepted.

What was the original language of the Bible?

The first manuscripts were written by hand in Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament).

Was the King James Version the first English Bible?

No. Nearly a dozen major translations had appeared in English before the KJV appeared. The Wycliffe Bible (1380), Tyndale Bible (1526), Coverdale Bible (1535), Great Bible (1539), Geneva Bible (1560), and Bishops' Bible (1568) were some of them.

Did the King James Version receive immediate acceptance by the common people when it first appeared?

No. The initial response was as negative as the reaction has been to some of the contemporary translations. The KJV was bitterly attacked for 80 years. Conservative Christians continued to use the more traditional *Geneva Bible*, the version the Pilgrims brought to the new world in 1620.

Are some English words in the King James Version obsolete?

The word "bowels" in 2 Corinthians 6:12, for example, had a different meaning in 1611



than it does today. So did the word "prevent" in Psalm 119:147 and 1 Thessalonians 4:15. Another example is the word "ouches" in Exodus 28:11.

Is my church sponsoring a Bible-reading program in 1988?

Called Bible '88, the campaign your church is participating in has enlisted a hundred thousand persons to read the Bible through this year. Now is the time for you to join in the campaign. Your church is also emphasizing prayer and fasting.

Which version of the Bible should I read?

The One Year Bible is avail-

able in two versions. The King James Version, is unsurpassed in beauty of language and grandeur of expression. Written in beautiful Elizabethan English, it is the Bible found most often in American homes.

The *New International Version* is a more contemporary translation. Read the version you prefer.

Where can I get a copy of The One Year Bible?

Ask your pastor. If it is unavailable through this source, call 1-800-533-8506 (in Tennessee, 1-800-523-4849), and it will be sent to you. A copy with a limp binding costs \$8.95; a stiff binding costs \$12.95.

YOUTH BIBLES COMPARISON CHART

NAME	VERSION	PRICE	FEATURES
DISCIPLESHIP YOUTH BIBLE	NASB	\$10.95 Softcover, tan	Has a presentation page and many helps, including material about how to become and grow as a Christian, Bible reading, memorization, evan-
Holman Bible Publishing Nashville, TN			gelism and where to get answers from the Bible. Includes a concordance and scripture songs. Illustrated with photographs of young people and full-color maps.
ENCOUNTER BIBLE	NIV	\$14.95 Softcover,	Has a presentation page and is designed for daily devotions and memorization. Tells how to
Holman Bible Publishing		purple	have a quiet time and includes a devotional subject index. Contains photographs and explanatory footnotes.
THE LIGHT	GNB	\$12.95 Softcover,	Photographs introduce Bible books. Contains a harmony of the Gospels, chronology of the Bible,
Thomas Nelson Publishers Nashville, TN		blue	subject index and maps. Has explanatory notes and tells where to find answers in the Bible.
THE ONE YEAR BIBLE	KJV (gold)	\$ 8.95 Softcover	Conveniently arranged in 365 10-minute readings. Each reading contains a passage from the
Tyndale House Publishers Wheaton, IL	NIV (red)	\$12.95 Hardcover	Old Testament, one from the New, a Psalm and a Proverb. Lists tell you where to locate great Bible events, great passages and great stories from the Bible. Used in Bible '88.
THE STUDENT BIBLE	NIV	\$14.95 Softcover	Has colorful maps and a presentation page. Includes a subject guide, Bible event index and
Zondervan Bible Publishers Grand Rapids, Mi		\$22.95 Hardcover \$39.95 Bonded leather, black	book introductions. Explanatory notes and insights on selected passages were written by Philip Yancey and Tim Stafford.
TEXTBOOK EDITION	NKJV	\$14.95 Softcover,	Colorful maps, illustrations and charts aid in the understanding of the scriptural record. Shows
Thomas Nelson Publishers		cream	how the history, geography, people and literature fit together in the Bible. Excellent article on the history of the King James Version.
THE TRANSFORMER	NKJV	\$12.95 Softcover,	Devotional notes illustrated with photographs. Things you've wanted to know about life but
Thomas Nelson Publishers		blue or red	didn't know who to ask, including "Is there life on other planets?" "How far is 'too far' on a date?" and others. Contributors include Jay Kesler, Josh McDowell and Barry St. Clair.
THE WAY	LB	\$10.95 Softcover	Has youthful photographs illustrating truths taught or lessons to be learned in each book. Interesting
Tyndale House Publishers		\$16.95 Hardcover, green	and helpful introductory material.
KJV—King James Version NIV—New International Version NKJV—New King James Version	NASB—New American Standard Bible LB—The Living Bible GNB—Good News Bible		

Bible Study ENTOY THE BUBLE

1. WE GET TOO BUSY. We stay active in order to shield ourselves from personal pain, frustration or insecurity. Somehow there is never a lack for something to do. Busyness is a symptom of our times. An overcrowded agenda often keeps us from God's Word.



4. WE ARE TOO FEAR-FUL. We are afraid someone will consider us not "intellectual" enough. Or perhaps wimpish. So we cloak the Bible in fancy phrases and use mystical terms to explain its teachings. "'You search the Scriptures,'" Jesus said, "'for in them you

FIVE HINDRANCES TO READING GOD'S WORD

- 2. WE BECOME TOO DISTRACTED. Jesus said the "cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things" can hinder the Word of God (Mark 4:19, New King James Version). It is so easy to stop listening to God and allow our reasoning and behavior to be shaped by nonessentials. We must make the effort to consciously focus on things which have eternal value.
- 3. WE ARE TOO THEORETICAL. We fail to apply the Scriptures to our own situations. It is not enough to know the text. We must train ourselves to ask, "What is God saying to me through this passage at this moment in my life?" We must make a personal application of the Scriptures and discern what God is saying to us through them.

think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life'" (John 5:39, *NKJV*).

5. WE ARE TOO CARNAL. "To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you" (Romans 8:6, 7, 9, NKJV).

The flesh hinders us from reading the Bible, but the Holy Spirit illumines our minds and warms our dull hearts. Spirit-led teens read God's Word regularly.

STUDY A CHAPTER

As you read the passage, ask yourself these questions:

- 1. What is the main subject of the chapter?
- 2. Who are the main people LISTEN in it?
- 3. What does it say about Christ?
- 4. What is the key or main verse?
- 5. What is the central lesson taught?
- 6. What are the main promises given?
- 7. What are the main commands?
- 8. What error should I avoid?
- 9. What example is here?
- 10. What do I need most in this chapter to apply to my life today?

-Adapted from Tim LaHaye

BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

- 1. A good study Bible
- 2. A Bible dictionary
- 3. A concordance
- 4. A Bible handbook

LISTEN TO THE LORD

Do you have the Bible in your cassette tape collection? It is convenient to "hide God's Word in your heart" these days by listening to it on the tape player. Several versions of the Bible are on tape, including the King James Version, New King James Version, American Standard Version, New International Version and the Living Bible.

Bible tapes offer you a choice of styles. Some have one narrator, others more than one. Some have background music. You can get a dramatization of the Scriptures on tape. Prices range from \$15 to \$60 for albums containing the New Testament. Old Testament cassettes cost from \$45 to \$180.

HOW TO GET STARTED

- Make a commitment to read the Bible 10 minutes a day. (*The One Year Bible* will help you.)
- Use a Bible translation that is clear to you.
- Plan a definite time and place for this spiritual appointment with God.
- Don't give up and quit if circumstances cause you to deviate from your plan.
- Expect God to speak to you through His Word.
- Keep your enthusiasm level high.
- Enjoy yourself. Make reading the Bible and praying a blessed time.

BibleStudy

25 THINGS THE BIBLE WILL DO FOR YOU

According to Psalm 119, the Word of God will:

Bless you-v. 2

Cleanse you-v. 9

Give you victory over sin-v. 11

Delight and counsel you-v. 24

Revive you-v. 25

Strengthen you-v. 28

Give you a big heart-v. 32

Keep you from giving up-v. 33

Give you salvation-v. 41

are you burration it is

Give you answers-v. 42

Make you self-confident-v. 46

Comfort you-v. 50

Give you a song-v. 54

Give you incredible wealth-v. 72

Make you pleasant to be with-v. 74

Save you in affliction-v. 92

Give you life-v. 93

Make you wiser than your enemies-v. 98

Light your pathway-v. 105

Cause your heart to rejoice-v. 111

Assure you that God wins in the end-vs. 118, 119

Give light and understanding-v. 130

Direct and deliver you-v. 133

Help you see sin as God sees it-v. 136

Cause you to rejoice—v. 162

Keep you from stumbling-v. 165

"Your word
is a
lamp to my feet
And
a light
to my path."

-Psalm 119:105, NKJV

Bible Study

OLD GUIDELINES FOR MODERN YOUTH

CAN WE LEARN anything from a man who died 430 years ago? Ignatius Loyola lived in the 16th century and wrote Spiritual Exercises. This is an adaptation of his instructions on how to meditate.

PART 1 Preparation

A. In prayer, ask God to give you the grace to direct your thoughts, words and actions in such a way you will serve and praise His divine Majesty.

- B. Read your selected scripture unhurriedly. Don't attempt to meditate on it at this time, just become familiar with it.
- C. Set a goal for meditation and ask God to help you accomplish it. If the passage you choose is Luke 2:1-7, for example, your aim may be a sense of awe and humility at the mystery of your Savior's entry into this world. This goal should be some emotion you want God to give you.



PART 2 Meditation

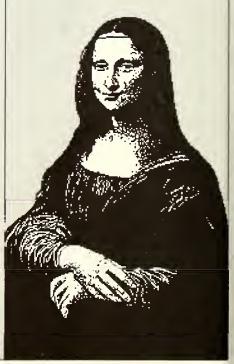
A. Mentally set the scene. In the passage in Luke 2:1-7, visualize the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem. See the hills, the valleys. Experience Mary and Joseph's discomfort. Imagine the animals accompanying them. Visualize the inn and the stable where Jesus was born. How does the air feel? smell? What sounds can you hear?

- B. Assume the role of one of the characters in the passage.
- C. Use all five senses, even taste, to become totally involved in the action.
- D. Examine your own feelings. How do you feel about the role you played? about what is happening? about yourself?



PART 3 Conversation

- A. In your mind carry on a conversation with someone else in the scene. Talk about any thoughts or questions that may have occurred to you.
- B. Talk to God about your experience in this meditation.
- C. Design a plan of action to help you use some lesson you have learned, or nurture some feeling or blessing you have received.



PRESSIE BEST

Guidelines for maximum achievement in Christ. . .

WHEN WE THINK ABOUT the best, we should keep four facts in clear view:

- Jesus wants us to experience the best.
- The Bible guides us in forming the proper definition of the best.
- God's love motivates us to press for the best.
- The Holy Spirit empowers us to achieve the best.

Christ said, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23, New King James Version). Believe, have faith, trust, walk with God. Make plans for the best, and it will come to pass. You were not created to come in second place, to have second best. Christ wants you to be something, to do something and to have something. He wants you to reach for His fullness.

You can have the best in your devotional life, your home life, your school life and your social life. Follow these guidelines:

Think creatively. Creative thinking can devise a plan for you to attend college. Creative thinking can transform dull, poorly attended youth meetings. Creative thinking can come up with unique ways to raise money for special projects. Creative thinking discovers new and improved ways of doing things.

Avoid stinking thinking! Don't let "We have always done it this way" paralyze your mind. Wel-

FLOYD D. CAREY

come new ideas. Be progressive. Ask yourself, "How can I do it better?" Stretch your mind. Think big.

In Philippians 4:8, Paul said, "Whatsoever things are honest . . . just . . . pure . . . lovely . . . of good report . . . think on these things." This is the formula for creative thinking.

"Jesus wants us to experience the very best."

Establish goals. Moses' goal was to deliver Israel from bondage. David's goal was to defeat Goliath and claim victory over the Philistines. Christ's goal was to give Himself that we might have abundant life, eternal life. Goals give direction and meaning to life. They take you where you want to go.

What do you feel God wants you to accomplish in the next three weeks? three months? three years? Write down your goals. Visualize them. Let them become a burning desire. Form a plan to achieve them. Work toward achieving your goals every day in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Value time. Take time before time takes you. Value it. At the end you want your life to have been more than 20 years of sleeping, five years of dressing yourself, three years of waiting on others, one year spent on the telephone, four months tying your shoes, and six years of watching television.

Be a person of action, a self-starter. Think action. Prepare a daily schedule—a to-do list. Be prepared to accept challenges and to face difficulties. Value time by getting up early, planning wisely and acting positively.

Practice consistency. Nothing can take the place of consistency. Day in and day out, with faith we must work toward achieving our goals. Circumstances don't change faith; faith changes circumstances.

Paul said, "We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8, 9, NKJV). Christ gives the vision and the strength to continue on, to be a person of action, to reach our goals, to represent Him with grace and glory.

You can experience the fullness of the love of Christ. Press for the best. \square



HOW TO HAVE A GOOD TIME AT A YOUTH ACTIVITY. . . .

Are We Having Having Self. Be to be, at life God Sometown feel

HEN I WAS A TEEN I would arrive home from a youth activity and hear my mother casually ask, "Did you have a good time?" Often, without taking time to think about the question, I would respond with an automatic, "Yes."

The question seemed so simple. Yet, I must admit that at times it was not easy to respond in the affirmative. Why?

What qualifies as "a good time"? What can guarantee a good time for you? Are there some ground rules that will ensure your having a good time?

Quite frankly, there are. Let's look at some basic steps you can take that will enhance your chances of enjoying an activity and having a good time.

The first step to enjoying any activity is to get involved in what's happening. Teens often prejudge an activity and decide beforehand they won't have any fun, so they don't get involved. A well-known commercial fea-

CHARLOTTE TYGART

tures this slogan, "Try it, you'll like it." What this says is simply that if you'll join in and become a part of the activity, you will enjoy it.

Once you've made the decision to be involved in a youth activity, there is another step you can take to ensure yourself of having a good time. That is, be yourself.

Trying to be like Janet or Joe or Freddy can be extremely difficult. You'll end up having a miserable time. You don't have to be the prettiest or the best-dressed or the wittiest, but you do have to be yourself.

Some won't get involved because of feelings of inferiority and self-doubt. They fear they won't be accepted. Remember that God created you special and you are a unique person. You can contribute to the activity what no one else can—your-

self. Be what God made you to be, and enjoy the abundant life God has blessed you with.

Sometimes we try to hide our own feelings of inferiority by making remarks or comments that are hurtful or embarrassing to others. Although some may laugh at your remarks, you will never enjoy yourself if you have to do it at the expense of someone else. Jesus gave us the perfect behavior pattern to follow at any activity. He said, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31, International Version). Make this a rule to live by and you will have good feelings about yourself as you enjoy life.

Ground rule number three: Attend the youth activity with the attitude 'What can I do to make this activity fun for others?" Real joy comes when we consider others. The great thing is that while you are attempting to help others, you will find yourself on the receiving end.

The youth leaders in your church love you. They spend a lot of time, effort and expense to express their love to you by providing various activities for your enjoyment. You need the special fellowship and friendship your church activities can provide. Avail yourself of what is provided and you will have a lot of fun-filled memories you will always cherish.

Are we having fun yet? Yes. We just started! \square

THE NEW TESTA-MENT LETTERS

THE NEW TESTAMENT begins with an account of the life of Jesus. This account is told by four individuals, each from a little different perspective. The writers were Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Their accounts are called the "Gospels." Thus we say, the "Gospel of Matthew" and so forth.

The New Testament ends with a grand and glorious vision of the final events in the history of the world. This account, written by John, is called, "The Book of Revelation."

The 22 books between the Gospels and Revelation are actually letters that were written to people or churches. They usually bear the name of the person or church to whom they are addressed. "General Epistle" Each (James to Jude) carries the name of its author. These letters are an important part of New Testament literature. Their greatest value, however, lies in the fact that they speak to contemporary situations. A brief survey of the letters of the New Testament reveals this.

BACKGROUND LETTERS

- Read Acts... when you find yourself doubting whether God can perform miracles today. It is a written account of the apostles and the establishment and growth of the early church.
- Read James . . . when you feel that all you have to do is believe. It was written to stress good works as a sign of faith.

PAUL'S TRAVEL LETTERS

- Read 1 Thessalonians . . . when you need help in keeping your thoughts, words and actions pure. It was written to emphasize the Christian's lifestyle.
- Read 2 Thessalonians . . . when you find yourself doubting Jesus' promised return. It was written to develop this theme.
- Read Romans . . . when you find yourself taking your salvation for granted. It was written on the subjects of sin, salvation and sanctification.

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLES

- Read *Philemon* . . . when you can't forgive someone who has wronged you. Its theme is the Christian's attitude toward reconciliation.
- Read *Ephesians* . . . when you have trouble accepting another believer because of his lifestyle. It was written to explain the meaning and ministry of the church.
- Read Colossians . . . when you find yourself wondering if the occult or some other mystical religion could help you. It emphasizes Christ as the head of all things and as the only way.
- Read *Philippians* . . . when you feel discouraged or depressed. It focuses on the joy of living completely for Christ.

PASTORAL EPISTLES

- Read 1 Timothy . . . if you think you are too young or inexperienced to influence others for the Lord. It is a leadership training manual.
- Read 2 Timothy . . . when you feel that living for Christ is not worth the effort. It tells how to endure hardship.
- Read *Titus* . . . when you are having trouble in your relationship with another person. This letter deals with relationships.

GENERAL EPISTLES

- Read *Hebrews* . . . when you need to remember what Christ has done for you. It shows the truths of the New Testament against the background of the Old.
- Read 1 Peter . . . when you are puzzled by unexpected and unexplained trials. It was written to assure us God can and wants to help us.
- Read 2 Peter . . . when you are confused by the teachings of people who deny the truth of God's Word. It was written to combat false teaching in the early church.
- Read *Jude* . . . when you are tempted to believe something contrary to God's Word. It was written to remind us of the future of false teaching and false teachers.
- Read 1 John . . . when you need to know how to show love to another Christian. It was written to teach us that Christians must reflect God's love.
- Read 2 John . . . when you find you are not living as a Christian should. It tells us how to live according to Christ's teachings.
- Read 3 John . . . when you find yourself thinking it doesn't matter whether you do what is right. It reminds us that others judge the Christian faith by the way we live.

AM AN UNSPOILED page in your book of time. I am your next opportunity at the art of living.

I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned during the last 12 months about life.

All that you have sought the past year and failed to find is hidden in me.

In me lies the potential of all you dreamed but didn't dare do; all that you hoped but didn't perform; all that you prayed for but did not yet experience.

I AM THE NEW YEAR.

BETTY FRANCIS

When we make yearly resolutions, we are in effect saying, "I know there is a better way to practice the art of living, and this year I'm going to do so."

Your ability to accomplish your resolutions is increased if you have a winning attitude on January 1. Two things stand in the way of your success—time and mood. You'll have to conquer both.

The time problem

Start small. If your goal is to read the Bible from cover to cover, do it in small increments on a daily basis. Too many of us make overly ambitious resolutions and end up feeling like we're tackling Mt. Everest.

The plan outlined in Bible '88 is an excellent way to accomplish your goal. Ask your pastor about a copy of *The One Year Bible*, and you can read through the entire Bible taking only 10 minutes a day.

If your goal is to change your appearance, be specific. Don't say, "I'm going to be a new me!" Is it your hair, your physical condition or your clothes that you don't like? If you need to get in shape, join an aerobics class or try an hour of exercise after school. In a few months, not only you but your friends

will be able to see a whole body change.

Making a list of whatever you need to accomplish in a day works wonders in managing time. Teens who write down their goals on a daily basis find they get more done and feel in control of their lives.

By making resolutions, you've identified your priorities. Now you need to make time for them. If you feel discouraged by the number of things to be accomplished, chart them into a 24-hour time frame. You may be surprised to find out how much time you've been squandering on phone calls, snacking or watching TV. Maybe you can use this time for things that count.

The mood problem

Those blue moods. Don't give up on your important goals if you goof up one day. One bad day doesn't give you an excuse to take up your old ways again. Above all, don't get angry with yourself; get angry at your blue mood. Then visualize yourself reading the last page of the Bible or the way you'll look after several months of exercise, and get busy working toward your goal again.

When a bad mood strikes, work up a smile by thinking

about pleasant things. Soon your negative spell will be broken and you'll be on your way to success.

Forgive yourself. Don't dwell on your past mistakes. Instead, make a list of your accomplish-

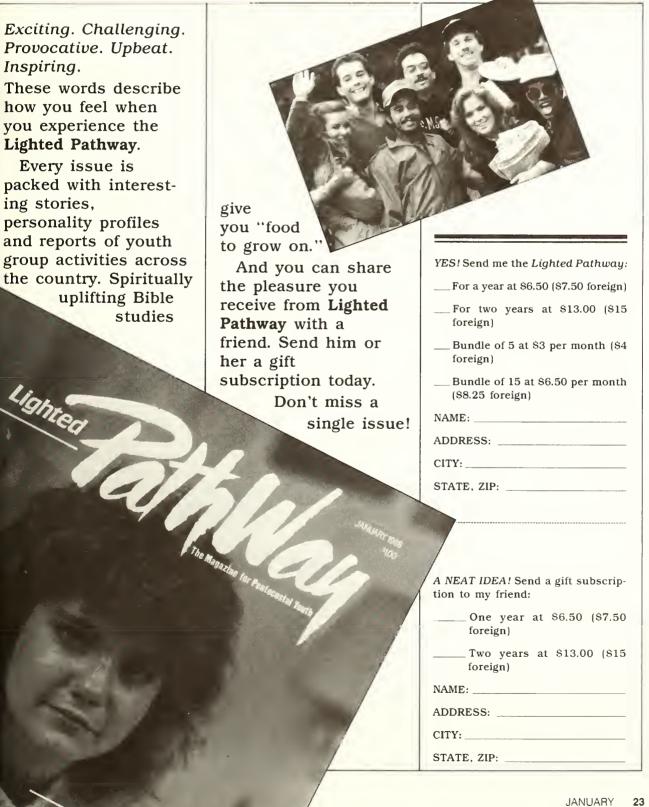


ments—how many Bible pages you've read and what you've learned that you didn't know before. Or write down how many inches you've lost from around your waist and how your muscle tone has improved. You'll soon be on top again.

Most important, set aside time for devotions to praise God for His strength. Reflect on the fact that God desires to bring worth and value to your life.

By daily persistence you can accomplish your goals; and this time next year, instead of saying, "If only" or "I wish," you can say, "I did!"

There's A Word For It!



ESTERDAY I TRIED to get your attention as you ran out the door to choir practice, but you didn't hear me. I wanted to tell you you're not looking well. You've lost weight, and the light is gone from your eyes.

I often call out to you, but you don't hear. I'm buried under a chemistry book, your school sweatshirt, a Sandi Patti album.

I feel like a love letter lying unopened on your nightstand.

If you would only break through the frost encasing your heart, beneath the snow is a flickering flame. You say you stay busy because of the love burning for other people. You say you're overflowing with God's love and you love Him so much you'll do anything He asks. But you won't even take time to read His letter of love to you. You say you're trying to model your love for others after the way He loves you? Take time to read how He loves you.

Buried here, next to your bed, I feel like a UPS man ringing your doorbell. I'm waiting outside with an armful of gifts especially for you. You peek out the window, but you won't open the door. Like an unread will, I contain an invaluable inheritance. If you'd take a moment to read me, you'd find a lot of presents—light for your path, peace for your soul, love to energize you.

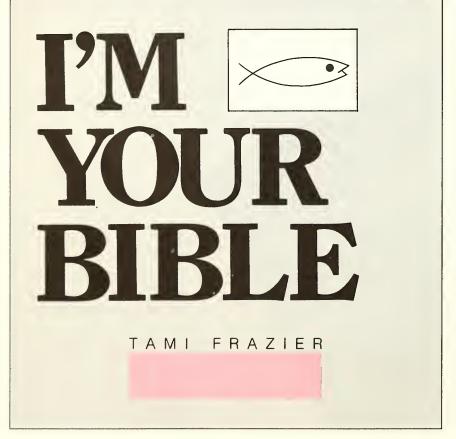
Besides presents, you'd find nourishment with a feast of scrumptious and pleasing salvation steak, sanctification soup, victory vegetables, joy jubilee and Spirit fruit salad. You need to stock up on Living Water, too. I can tell, as well as can your family and friends, that your reservoir of Living Water is running low. I hurt because I know if you'd only spend some time with me, you'd tap into a sparkling, refreshing spring of clear water.

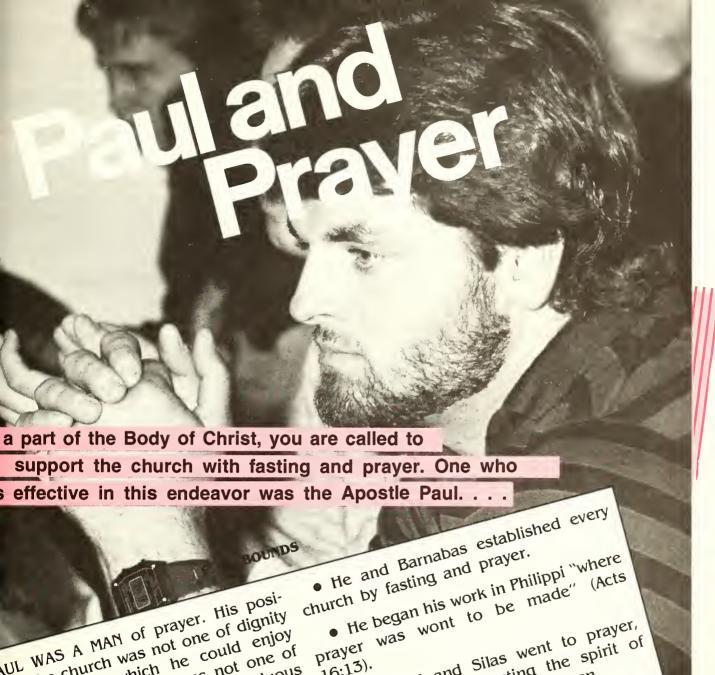
You and I used to explore the world together in morning devotions. We've been to mountain retreats. We've been together at school and at church. Now you don't even take me to Sunday school. You say the leaflet has everything printed you need. So I'm here, an unused road map and compass.

I've led you through wildernesses, and I've kept your feet on straight paths. Have my directions ever been wrong? Have I ever led you astray? Now you are wandering and questioning. You tell yourself you can remember the ways on the map. Then why are you stumbling? You say your sword will protect you, but it's no longer sharp or sparkling. It couldn't bend the whisker of a lion, much less slay one!

Remember, God didn't give me to you so that I could grow dust. I'm here by His love. I'm here to guide and enrich you. So open the door for the UPS man.

Break open the love letter.
Unfold your road map.
Reach for me, I'm your Bible.





AUL WAS A MAN of prayer. His posiin the church was not one of dignity d position in which he could enjoy mself and luxuriate. It was not one of fficialism, nor was it one of arduous and exhaustless drudgery. Paul's Position in the church was that of a praying man

He began his career for Christ in the who got results.

school of prayer. God's convincing and wonderful argument to assure Ananias wonderful argument to assure (mained)
was, "Behold, he prayeth" (Acts 9:11). Three days he was without sight, neither eating nor drinking but he learned the

• He went on his first great missionary journey under the power of fasting and lesson well.

prayer.

 As Paul and Silas went to prayer, God answered by casting the spirit of 16:13).

divination out of a young woman. • When Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God at midnight, God

delivered them from prison. Paul made praying a habit, a business, a life. To him praying was not a mere coloring, a paint, or a polish. Prayer supplied the substance, the bone, and the

marrow of his religious life.



WE WERE DINING beneath the golden arches when the conversation got around to fasting. And just as I was chomping down on a Big Mac with cheese!

Chewing my food hurriedly to keep from choking, I could tell by the questions asked that teens have a keen interest in knowing about fasting. Dr. Raymond E. Crowley, general overseer, has called the Church of God to fasting and prayer. And that includes you and me.

What does the Bible say about fasting? Are we required to fast? What is a fast anyway?

No commandment in Scripture requires us to fast; still, it is clear that in the Bible fasting was a normal activity of the people of God. It is also clear from Matthew 9:15 that Jesus expects His followers to fast. During His ministry He gave instructions on the proper way to fast.

Fasting is voluntarily denying the body something for a specific purpose and a specific length of time. Usually it means going without food. The person who goes without food until he dies is not fasting—he is starving himself.

In Daniel 10:3, Daniel fasted from certain foods. Jesus ate nothing when He fasted (Luke 4:2). Moses neither ate nor drank when he fasted (Exodus 34:28). These are examples of what some call a partial fast, a regular fast and a total fast.

Fasting does several things for us. Fasting helps us express sorrow. In 2 Samuel 1:11, 12, David fasted while mourning his best friend's death. Nehemiah



FASTING UNDER THE GOLDEN ARCHES

MARCUS V. HAND

fasted in sorrow over the condition of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1:4). Daniel fasted to express sorrow over his nation's sin (Daniel 10).

Fasting emphasizes our repentance. It is not a substitute for obedience, nor a shortcut to special treatment from God. It will not take the place of repentance. But fasting with the proper motive demonstrates sincerity. Jonah (Jonah 3) and King Ahab (1 Kings 21) are biblical examples.

Fasting increases our love for others and our devotion to God. When we fast as Jesus instructs us to, we set aside our own needs and desires. We become absorbed with the interests of others. We begin to hunger to know and do the will of God.

Fasting intensifies our praying. It intensified Jehoshaphat's prayer for victory over the enemy (2 Chronicles 20), David's prayer for victory over sickness (2 Samuel 12), Jesus' prayer for victory in temptation (Matthew 4), and Jesus' prayer for victory over satanic power (Matthew 17).

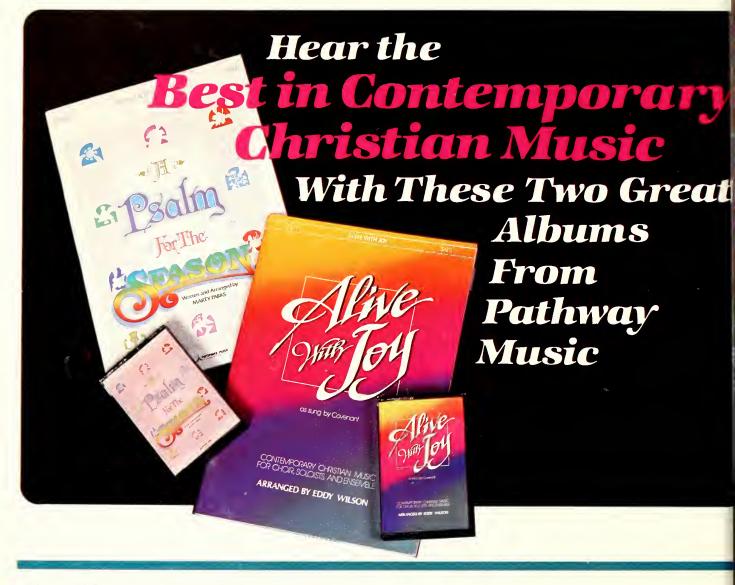
Fasting enlarges our vision. When we don't know how to solve our own problems, fasting helps us see the seriousness of the situation and realize our utter dependence on God. It gives us a keen sense of standing in the presence of God.

Jesus gave some practical instructions on fasting in Matthew 6:16-18:

- Fast with a happy face, not a sad one.
- Fast sincerely, not as a hypocrite.
- Be aware of your personal grooming when you fast.
- Fast to impress God, not man.

For personal power with God or to find answers to your personal questions, try fasting. Examine your motives. Set your personal agenda. Experience spiritual power through fasting and prayer.





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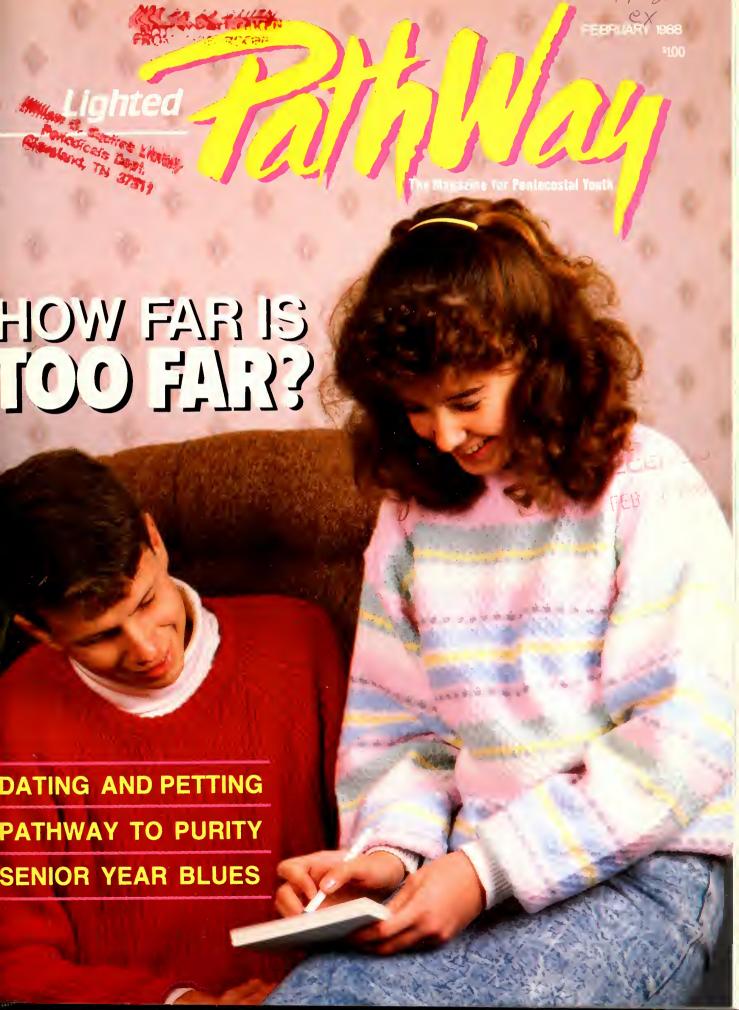
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FEBRUARY 1988

VOLUME 59, NO. 2

This issue talks about problems you grapple with. Maintaining high standards in a permissive world requires the help of each other and of God. Our writers look at sticky issues and apply biblical principles. "The spiritual man makes judgments about all things" (1 Corinthians 2:15, New International Version).



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Regency Teens in Ministry

TEENS IN MINISTRY make a growing church stronger. One way you can be involved is by volunteering to participate in your church's junior ministry. Here's how the dynamic teens at the Regency Church in Jacksonville, Fla., does it.

In August more than 20 teens worked in the church's vacation Bible school program. More than 140 children attended the sessions every day.

Then Youth Minister James A. Hull instituted a Big Brother/Big Sister program. Many of the teens adopted a buddy from the church's juniors. The big brother or big sister calls or writes his or her buddy once a week and helps to nurture and disciple the junior in the ways of the Lord.

"We show them it is possible to be a teenager and a Christian," Charlene Livaudias, the youth group president says.

Teens and juniors at Regency occasionally come together for prayer meetings. Together they have gone on outings to the Jacksonville Zoo and the Jacksonville Museum of Arts and Sciences.

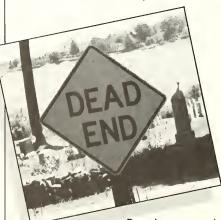
The youth group's annual Halloween event was a great success. Complete with carnival-type games, a puppet show, candy and toys, it was billed as a "biblical characters costume party." Everyone was urged to come dressed as a biblical character. Trophies and ribbons were awarded to the best-dressed kids.

Pastor F.L. Braddock says that the teens have helped revitalize the junior ministry at Regency. Recently the youth group raised funds to furnish each teen with a copy of *The One Year Bible* for Bible '88.

Teens Vulnerable to Cocaine-Caused Death

"THERE IS NO such thing as a 'safe dose' of cocaine." So says Dr. Donald Ian McDonald, director of the White House Drug Policy Office.

Recent studies at the Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston link cocaine use to several types of heart problems. Unfortunately, as with basketball star Len Bias, death is often the first "symptom" of a cocaine-caused heart problem.



Cocaine-caused death can also come

from convulsions, lung failure, heart attack, stroke, traffic accidents or even by drowning in one's own saliva after passing out. Dr. Calvin Chatlos, director of an adolescent substance abuse program, says "Teenagers need to know that using cocaine is like playing Russian roulette. Death can occur at any time from any dose."

Teenagers become addicted to cocaine faster than adults and suffer serious cocaine-related problems sooner and more frequently, according to recent studies. Chatlos notes that cocaine use can lead to brain seizures, loss of consciousness and violent behavior. Nearly 15 percent of adolescent cocaine users say they have attempted suicide, he reports.

Youth Camp Update

A 17-YEAR-OLD stood to his feet during the discussion at last summer's Northeastern Hispanic Teen Camp. We were discussing the "Why Wait?" campaign. He declared:

"I love Camp Jubilee and I come hoping to be strengthened spiritually. Every year I dread the last day when it's time to leave because this place is like heaven to me. I'd like to live here all the time. I'm from the Bronx in New York, and it's tough trying to live for Christ there. But I want to serve God. I want to go to heaven. Pray for me."

This is just one of the five teen camps I participated in last summer in uniquely different regions and settings of the country. The schedules and programs varied drastically, yet each one was a new adventure for youth away from home. Kids experienced exciting relationships with new acquaintances and reaffirmed previous ones.

Nearly every camp included at least one cliff-hanger ballgame. Usually there were several. There were times of near-total physical collapse. Some said the food was good; some said it was terrible. But there was an awesome wonder as the Holy Spirit impacted our lives. The shared Word of God answered nagging questions and healed troubled souls. What joy we experienced when a person almost over the edge suddenly realized, "I'm really somebody. God cares about me,

and He wants me to have a satisfying, fulfilling life right now."

Church of God youth camp makes a difference. It is dynamic youth evangelism in action. In this Christ-centered atmosphere, teens like you are shown how to live for the Lord, how to overcome temptation and how to live a victorious, Spirit-filled life. These lessons are taught not through formal Bible teaching or the worship service. They are demonstrated in flesh and blood by other campers who are where you are but have become disciples of Christ.

Reports from state and regional youth directors show there were approximately 30,000 teens participating in 1987 Church of God youth camps. Statistics reveal that last summer 4,240 were saved, 3,253 were sanctified and 1,856 were baptized in the Holy Spirit in Church of God youth camps. God is at work in this generation. This is exciting news. Begin making plans now for this summer. Hope to see you there!

Junus Fulbright, Assistant Director Youth and Christian Education

Lighted Pathway Needs You

WE WELCOME reports from your youth group activities.

We welcome your testimonies, reports of your youth group activities and accounts of special achievement by outstanding young adults. Send your account typed, doubled-spaced on 8¹/₂-by-11-inch paper. All photographs will be returned to you. Mail to Marcus V. Hand, Editor, Lighted Pathway, 1080 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, TN 37311. □

Brent Morgan, Hero

INSIDE THE BURNING BUILD-ING, Brent Morgan became "concerned that my life may really be in danger. The roof above me had just caved in and was on fire, and the floor seemed real weak."

The Lee College senior from Muscle Shoals, Ala., was studying all night in his apartment, preparing for an ethics exam. Ethics wasn't his most exciting subject, especially at 3 a.m. But Brent was about to discover how important to him were his personal ethics.

Brent heard sirens in the early morning hours. Curious, he glanced through the window and saw flames rising from the roof of a house on the next street. He rushed to the burning building without thinking and found himself running around it, beating on the doors and windows to awaken any occupants who might still be inside. When there was no response, Brent kicked in the back door just to make sure. The heat of the flames intensified when the door was opened, almost overcoming Brent with thick, choking smoke.

"I looked around and called to see if there was indeed anyone in the house. First I looked in the bedroom, the only place not yet engulfed in flames. I quickly looked through the house and was about to turn and run out when I heard a groan from a corner in the back room."

A 75-year-old man huddled there, confused, frightened, not knowing what to do. Instinctively Brent, a 6-foot-2 Lee College basketball player, cradled the man in his arms and ran outside the building. By this time it was completely enveloped in flames. The fire truck was just arriving at the scene.

"If it were not for the quick think-



Brent was on the December cover of Lighted Pathway magazine.

ing action of Mr. Morgan, chances are that the occupant of the home would not have survived," lead stories on the local radio stations blared out that morning. Brent Morgan had become a hero.

"I'm just glad I was able to help somebody," the Church of God minister's son commented. His parents, the Rev. and Mrs. B.L. Morgan, pastor in Muscle Shoals, Ala.

In today's look-out-for-numberone society, many people would accuse Brent of not using the best judgment. You don't just dash into a burning building without being a little more cautious. Heroics of this type seem to be rare these days. However, a Christian has a different view on life and its many situations than does the world. The Christian has the Bible and its truths to rely on in situations like the one Brent encountered. God's Word reassures and gives an undergirding ethical base for times of crisis.

Brent noted that he had received a letter from the rescued man's daughter in another state; she thanked him in a special way. "She told me she had just lost her mother two weeks earlier and the thought of also losing her dad that quickly would have been devastating."

Meanwhile, Brent went back to classes at Lee College, wondering what all the fuss was about.

-Cameron Fisher

SPEAKS O U T! have blond hair brown Have Living hear to a looking. where you would go, what you would do. eyes, and he good wery hice restaurant, then we'd go rid. Youth Minister David Travis asked To Some of the to respond to this question around to respond to this question Some of the teens in the Dayton, Tenn.
Youth group to respond they said. ing around. Then i'd take My favorite date would be a nice for Pry lavorite date would be farme hice she double date and have hice she go to a nice tate and have would nice restaurant.

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Probably just go out to dinner.

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HAVE
YOU
TRIED
THE
NEW
EXCLUSIVE
YOUTH
TALKLINE

Each month *Lighted Pathway* publishes a monthly topic or survey question. When you call YOUTH TALKLINE follow this procedure:

- 1. Dial the YOUTH TALKLINE number: 6154 SURVEY, or (615) 478-7839.
- 2. At the sound of the tone, speak up clearly.
- 3. Give your full name, age, city and state.
- 4. Respond to the topic of the month.

Lighted Pathway will endeavor to answer all your questions, either by correspondence or through an article in the magazine. If you wish a personal response, be sure to give your address on the YOUTH TALKLINE.

YOUTH TALKLINE SUBJECT:

Talk to Lyn (See Grief and Glory)



Dream Dates

My dream date would have blondishbrown hair, blue eyes, good stock. He would be in with the Lord. The meaning of genuine love is that God gave His life for me. That's genuine love!

—Dana Huntson Age 20 Moose Jaw. Sask.

I would want my dream date to be a nice Christian girl. She would be some-body who lives a Christian life and acts and talks like a Christian should—one who doesn't do the things of the world. Put my name and address in your magazine for Pen Pals.

-Wayne Knox 357 Church Street Chincoteague, VA 23336

My dream date would have dark brown hair and brown eyes.

-- Natasha Smith Age 15 Moose Jaw, Sask.

I want to tell you what my dream guy would be. He'd be blond, blue-eyed, dark tan, tall, muscular. I would do anything he asked if he's sexy enough and knew how to come on to a girl.

-Lyn

Want to be editor? Of the many responses to our December 1987 Youth Talkline question, "Describe your dream date . . . ," this one seemed to be the loudest cry for help. What word of advice would you give Lyn (not her real name)? Call Youth Talkline or write your reply. We'll print the best replies if you (1) are between 13 and 24 years old and (2) give us your name, age and address. Send your letters to Editor, Lighted Pathway, 1080 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, TN 37311

SENIGRASEAR

Most high school seniors enter their final year of school with high expectations of how the last year will turn out. . . .

DON'T EVEN CARE if I graduate!"

"Oh, come on, Jill. You may not care right now, but you will when you're trying to decide what to do with the rest of your life."

"I know, but none of my plans for senior year are turning out as I'd thought."

This is how it went for most of Jill's final year of high school. I tried to be helpful and comforting to my sister. After all, I had already gone through the senior year blues.

Although situations the weren't the same 12 years ago, the basic problem was. Is this what senior year is supposed to be like? Most high school seniors enter their final year of school with great expectations of how the last year will turn out. Especially girls. This is the "do or die" year. Either you do everything this year or miss out forever. And that was the attitude I had when I began my senior year.

I had never really been outgoing all through school. In fact, most of the six girls in our group of close friends weren't very outgoing. Oh, we had joined a few clubs, went on a few outings, even went to ball games together. But none of the things we did or places we went seemed very important until senior year. We all had great expectations about our final year of high school.

Boy, did we ever get fooled! By our senior year most of us had steady boyfriends who had either finished school or didn't attend our school. So that left a lot of empty time at school for all of us. All except my twin sister, whose steady boyfriend attended school with us. JANET ROBICHAUX

Breaks and free periods were spent sitting, holding hands and staring ogle-eyed at each other. Goodness, what a waste of time!

Now we all talked about joining this club and that club, the pep squad, cheerleading, even sports. But that was all we did—we *talked* about it. None of the ordinary things seemed to interest us. Instead, we became sidetracked by visions of our past. We reverted back to our childhood, our primary school days.

I know I should be embarrassed to admit all of this, but I'm really not. We had fun. Yes, fun!

We brought jacks and jump ropes to school. We played hop scotch, Simon says, freeze tag, and chase. We had contests to see who could walk through the school halls without a pass and not get caught. At least once a week we would be thrown out of the library. We became the giggly bunch.

I am a little ashamed to admit I once disposed of my chewing gum under the handrail of a busy stairway. But it was worth the look on the guy's face who happened to find it first.

Please don't get me wrong; we were not a bunch of hooligans. We had always been a pretty timid bunch. We weren't looking to get into any trouble or get anyone else into trouble. I guess what we were really trying to do was sow a few wild

oats before taking that final plunge into adulthood. We were grabbing the gusto, like every other high school senior. We just went about it in a different way.

Well, I didn't impress my sister with stories about my senior year. And I didn't want to put any crazy ideas in her head. But at least she understood the message I wanted to get across. Everything doesn't always work as planned. Our lives don't always follow exactly the path we'd like. But hey, sometimes it works out better. Falling short of our expectations will be a part of life.

Expecting more out of life will carry over into adult life for you, as it has for me. If we don't set goals or expectations, our lives will stagnate. When we set goals or expectations, however, we must also realize that we don't always have total control of every situation. We may not be able to meet that goal. For instance, dates get canceled. The tomato sauce won't come off your favorite blouse. The ball game may get rained out. The prom dress in the showroom window may be sold just before you walk in the store. There are hundreds of other misgivings.

On some days you will pass your expectations, on others you will fall short. It's all a part of life. Twelve years from now you'll look back and say, "Is that what senior year was supposed to be like?" Probably, you will hardly have a regret.

I should know. I would have loved to have been queen of the prom. If only I hadn't been so busy trying to improve my game of jacks. Oh well, I can't say it wasn't fun!

DVENAN PI-A-C-E

Moral failure often leads to unexpected results. Who do you turn to? What do you do? Here is an alternative for some. . . .





WHAT IS COVENANT PLACE?

COVENANT PLACE is a private, nonprofit Christian maternity home providing care and counseling for unmarried pregnant girls and women.

Located in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains in Sevier County, Tenn., Covenant Place is fully licensed by the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Referrals are accepted from anywhere in the United States in keeping with interstate placement regulations.

Girls are accepted for care as early as the second or third month of pregnancy. Priority is given to those who are struggling with crisis pregnancy and whose circumstances necessitate placement outside their own home.

WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED?

Covenant Place, as a positive, creative alternative to abortion, provides the following services:

- Living Accommodations— Provided are a quiet place with privacy, excellent food, and loving fellowship and supervision
- Medical Care—Prenatal and delivery services are provided by Christian physicians and nurses.
 Childbirth classes are available.
- Counseling—In addition to the day-to-day support of residential staff, each girl receives individual counseling from Christian professional social workers. Counseling is also available to family members and the unmarried father when desired.
- Educational Opportunities—
 Continuing education is avail-

able through local public high schools, community college and correspondence courses.

- Employment—Part-time work is available in the community to earn money and to gain work experience and job skills.
- Recreation—Nearness to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park provides a great many recreational and leisure time activities, including year-round swimming and other forms of exercise.
- Spiritual Growth and Development—Private devotions, group Bible studies and creative worship services provide an excellent opportunity for decision making and spiritual enrichment.
- Confidentiality—The identity of the girls and all records are carefully protected. Every effort is made to maintain the highest level of confidentiality.



Hilmer and Vonda Back are the resident supervisors at Covenant Place.

WHAT ABOUT ADOPTION SERVICES?

As a licensed adoption agency, Covenant Place is able to help the unwed mother with adoption services. While a deci-

sion to release the baby for adoption is not a prerequisite for care, when this seems to be the best plan, the mother is fully involved in the placement. She is able to play a primary role in the selection of the adoptive parents by reviewing nonidentified family resumes.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO STAY AT COVENANT PLACE?

Covenant Place charges no fees for room and board or its counseling services. Doctors' fees and hospital expenses, in many cases, can be paid for by Medicaid or medical and hospital insurances. In those situations where these resources are not available, Covenant Place will assist in working out an alternative financial plan.

WHAT ARE THE PROCEDURES FOR ADMISSION?

Applications or inquiries can be made by telephone, by letter or in person. After the completed application has been received, an interview is arranged with the girl, either in person or by phone. The decision to accept is made by the Covenant Place staff and depends upon available space and willingness to abide by agency regulations. Written permission from parent(s) or guardian(s) must be made for girls under age 18.

To make a referral or to request additional information, call the following toll-free numbers: 1-800-654-1622 (U.S.) and 1-800-654-1624 (TN). Or write: Covenant Place, P.O. Box 391, Sevierville, TN 37862. □

GREEN EYES

JEALOUSY IS CALLED the green-eyed monster for good reason! Jealousy can destroy both you and your friendships.

An Old Testament example of this is King Saul's jealousy of David. At one time David was a welcomed guest at King Saul's palace, where he played his harp to soothe the king. When people began to praise David more than Saul, Saul became jealous and tried to destroy David.

Jealousy springs from different causes and motives, but mostly it comes from our own feelings of insecurity and a lack of self-acceptance. There are always areas we can improve, but God has given us different talents and abilities. When we are unsure of ourselves and our talents, we may feel like failures compared to others around us. We feel as if we aren't as successful as they. To a shy girl, an outgoing "social person" may seem more talented and successful, even when the shy girl has abilities of her own. She still may feel jealous of the other person.

Part of the problem is that we live in a society that teaches us to be competitive in everything. We are to be the best athlete, the most popular student, get the best grades and be the most glamorous. The people viewed as most successful are the football heroes, the homecoming queens, the cheerleaders. They are the ones who

Society teaches us to be competitive in everything. It's difficult to congratulate the person who just got the part in the play you were trying out for. . . .

KATRINA SIMS

get the attention, and sometimes this makes us envious. We want to "get even" or "put them in their place."

This desire to get even usually takes a verbal form. Jealousy starts rumors or tears others down. We've all heard people make comments like "She thinks she's so hot" or "He thinks he's really something." If you've caught yourself saying or thinking things like this, you may have a problem with jealousy.

God tells us in His Word to think of others above ourselves (Philippians 2:3). Jealousy is caused by thinking of ourselves first. We do need to be the best we can be, we need to develop our talents. At the same time we must be willing to rejoice with others over their success.

True, this is not always easy. It's difficult to congratulate the one who just got the part in the play you were trying out for or to rejoice with your friend who made cheerleading when you didn't.

Remember, someone else's success doesn't reflect on our own self-worth. God doesn't judge us on our success and talent but on how we live for Him. Do we always do things for His glory (1 Corinthians 10:31)?

Do your best for God today, and be willing to accept the accomplishments of others. Rejoice with them, and you can defeat the green-eyed monster!

Bible Study PATHWAY TO PUBLIC

TWO COWS GRAZED contentedly in a pasture. As a milk truck drove by, they looked up and read these words: "Fresh milk—Refrigerated, Grade A, Pasteurized, Homogenized, Vitamins Added."

Said one cow to the other, "Makes you feel kind of inadequate, doesn't it?"

Have you ever felt inadequate when someone started to talk about purity? What does *purity* mean? Pure as compared to whom or what?

Those who tell us about purity usually begin with God's commandment in 1 Peter 1:15, 16 (scriptures are from the *New King James Version*): "As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"

Our initial reaction is "You mean, be holy like God?"

Before we can adequately digest the implications of that verse, we are given another one: "You shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). And to make sure we get the right message, 1 Timothy 4:12 is quoted: "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in . . . purity."

And you feel like asking, "Who, me?"

Satan's lies about purity have misled too many people. Spiritfilled youth know, however, that God's truth exposes Satan's errors. For example . . .

- To be pure does not mean you have to be a wimp. In today's culture it takes strength of character and genuine effort to keep yourself pure. Anyone can "play dead" and go along with the crowd.
- To be pure does not mean you have to be self-righteous. The truly pure person has accepted Jesus as Lord and Master. There-

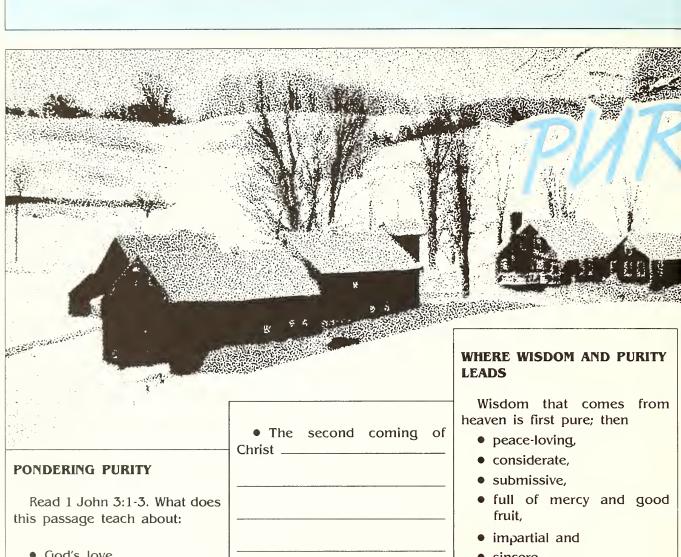
- fore, the righteousness that makes him pure is not his own; it is the righteousness of God.
- To be pure does not mean you have to be dull. Satan would convince you that if you live Christ's way you cannot have any fun. On the contrary, the cleansing purity of God's forgiveness frees you from the bondage of guilt. This enables you to enjoy life more because you are not carrying all that excess baggage around with you.

Clearly, God has high expectations of us. He has set a high standard because He wants us to be fulfilled and live productive lives. You can be sure, however, that if God has requirements for us, He makes it possible for us to meet those requirements.

What does the Bible say about purity?

GREATIONS EXPECTATIONS

CARM BRICES



God's love _____

God's family _____

• The result of this hope ___

Purity of soul cannot be lost without consent.

-Augustine

sincere.

-James 3:17, NIV

PRAYER FOR PURITY

This I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

-Philippians 1:9-11

Bible Study

THE WORD OF GOD AND PURITY Psalm 119, NIV 1. Verse 9. How can you stay pure?	
2. Verse 10. What keeps you from straying from God's commands?	5. Read verses 12 - 16. Match the action with the proper verse. v. 12 Testimony of the psalmist v. 13 Meditating on God's Word v. 14 Learning from God's Word
3, Verse 11. What does it mean to "hide God's Word in your heart?" 4. Verse 11. What will God's Word keep you from doing?	v. 15 Experiencing joy through obeying God's Word v. 16 Conscientiously following God's Word Young people (who) set aside the divine code of purity and live after their own lusts pride themselves that they are living full, satis-
	fied lives, when in reality they are destroying their own prospects of a happy marriage. The

FEBRUARY 15

-Walter Maier

last chapter in the Bible excludes from Paradise

all who continually serve the flesh.

Bible Stu



WORLD'S WORST DATE?

In Creative Dating Doug Fields and Todd Temple* tell about one of the world's worst dates. On Aug. 3, 1985, Mike Driggs and Pam Sears went out for what they thought would be an enjoyable evening. Trying to find an out-of-town restaurant they had heard about, they got

Then-you guessed it-Mike's car ran out of gas (not on purpose). Pam walked with Mike the two miles to the nearest station for gas. There they borrowed a gas can and hitched a ride back on a tow truck.

When they reached the spot where they had left the car, they discovered it had been stolen! Back at the service station, they had to wait 45 minutes for the police to arrive. Then it took another two hours to complete the police report.

Mike decided to rent a car for the ride home. The cab he called charged \$20 to take him and his date to an airport auto rental agency.

Gallantly, Mike still insisted on going to dinner. After dinner Mike and Pam returned to the rental car—only to be informed that the parking attendant had damaged it when he backed it into a guard rail!

Driving to Pam's house, Mike was pulled over by a policeman and ticketed for not having brake lights.

(Honest! I am not making this up!)

At Pam's house Mike opened the door, and Pam's German shepherd bit him on the arm.

At 1 a.m. Mike was at the hospital emergency room getting eight stitches in his arm.

What happened next? Pam wound up dating the intern she met in the emergency room.

Mike got a job with the car rental agency.

Have you had a humorous or unusual experience on a date? Tell us about it, and if we print your story, we'll send you a free subscription to Lighted Pathway. You may call Youth Talkline at 6154-SURVEY (615-478-7839) or write to Edi-Lighted Pathway 1080 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, TN 37311.

*Get a copy of Creative Dating for \$5.95 by calling 1-800-553-8506 (in Tennessee, 1-800-523-4849).

SEX, Fantasy Pornography

WHY DO SEXUAL FANTASIES especially concern us? One reason must be this comment by Jesus: "I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28, New International Version). Lust has been considered another name for "sexual fantasy." And certainly Jesus

TIM STAFFORD

warned specifically and strongly against sexual lust.

But was Jesus referring to sexual fantasies? The difficulty here is that the Greek word translated "lust" is a broad word, more literally translated "strong desire." It does not necessarily have a connotation of fantasy. It is often used positively. For instance, Jesus' words in Luke 22:15 should be translated, literally, "I have *lusted* to eat this Passover with you." Evidently such lust was not wrong, nor

"PETTING" IS A TERM for sexual touching that falls short of intercourse. Is it wrong for people who want to remain virgins until they marry to express their love physically and give each other sexual pleasure, so long as they do not go "all the way"?

As soon as we put the question that way, we cannot help seeing there is a range of behavior in question. If people of the opposite sex are to date each other at all, they are certainly going to express their love and give each other sexual

pleasure. Even a smile does that. So does holding hands. So does a brief kiss. These are undoubtedly sexually stimulating, but they remain at an innocent level.

Other stronger sexual expressions bring in another dimension. Sexual excitement usually grows more compulsive and difficult to control. When people take off clothes or stimulate private parts, they do not talk. They are dominated by the physical urge toward intercourse, and they may spend long hours un-

der its influence. Some lose control and have intercourse whether they intended to or not; others find that the effort to keep control leaves them angry, frustrated or preoccupied. Either way, they do themselves no favor.

Unmarried people should understand the way the body's excitement naturally moves toward intercourse. They should understand that it is good that God made us so, but that going "halfway" with this dynamic is dangerous and harmful to relationships.



is it likely Jesus was referring to his own mental fantasies about the meal.

Most probably Jesus, in His comment on mental adultery, was referring not to fantasies but to desire. His words might be paraphrased this way: "To want what is wrong sexually is just as evil as to do what is wrong sexually."

Fantasy may be involved in wrong desires, but it is also involved in good desires. Thinking about sexuality is one way in which we come to know ourselves sexually. Surely no one ever consummated a marriage without thinking of it in advance; nor, if it were possible, would we want someone to remain so thoughtless of this great good. All human interactions have a sexual component, of which we are more or less

aware, and these make part of the pleasure of living in the goodness of God's creation. Should a woman not notice that she is talking to a man, or a man that he is looking at a woman? We should not condemn sexual fantasy wholesale.

But there is another side to fantasy. As therapist Balswick notes, "Most of us have some deviations in our fantasy." Often fantasies concern rape, adultery or homosexuality. Men seem plagued by depersonalized fantasies or by domination fantasies in which women are enslaved. Almost all pornography (read primarily by men) contains these two themes or worse.

"I think we need to tell people that you must make some boundaries," says Balswick. "It is possible to exclude evil thoughts, or at least not to dwell on them." Paul's recommendation to the Philippians, "Whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable . . . think about such things" (4:8, NIV) must surely apply. There are lovely, pure, and admirable sexual thoughts. These should be encouraged. There are sexual thoughts that are conversely, impure, ugly and ignoble.

Pornography is certain to encourage them. It ought not to be regarded as an innocent stimulus. It presents images that are impersonal, unrealistic and usually immoral. Furthermore, it is a commercial industry, which means that sexuality is bought and sold like a commodity. Even if the message were innocent, the medium would not be. Pornography, like prostitution, reduces its user to a customer.

OK, OK Guys. Hold your horses. There are Plenty of Lighted Pathways to Go around.





REASONS PORNOGRAPHY IS EVIL

DR. JERRY R. KIRK

THERE ARE 10 IMPORTANT REASONS why every Christian must join the fight against pornography.



Pomography destroys the image of God in people.

We are made in the image of God with the ultimate purpose of glorifying Him and enjoying Him forever.

Pornography turns people into abusers of others for personal pleasure or profit. Men become addicted to lustful imaginations and then act out those imaginations in animal-like and violent ways. Women become the tragic victims of those fantasies acted out. Children become innocent victims of unimaginable molestation and perversions.

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin states: "Created in God's image and likeness, the human person is the clearest reflection of God's presence among us. Because human life is sacred, we all have a duty to develop the kind of societal environment that protects and fosters its development."

Pornography is addictive.

Pornography subtly winds around its users an ever-tightening chain of bondage to the impulses and potential extravagance of sexual instincts.

The Apostle Paul describes this process as the "hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more" (Ephesians 4:18, 19, New International Version).

By contrast, Paul affirms the freedom of a pure mind: "Whatever is true . . . right . . . pure . . . lovely . . . admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Philippians 4:8, NIV).

The Bible teaches a life free of harmful addictions. In fact, the Judeo-Christian value system is the very atmosphere where true freedom lives and flourishes.

Pornography is anti-Christian.

Pornography openly mocks the most precious truths of our faith: the person of Jesus Christ, the Lord's Supper and the Crucifixion. It mocks and belittles marital fidelity, morality and commitment to family life. It seeks to undermine and attack religious leaders.

God abhors all that is immoral, idolatrous, sexually perverted and lustful.

"Do not be deceived; neither the immoral . . . nor idolaters, nor sexual perverts . . . will inherit the kingdom of God. . . . The body is not meant for immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body" (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10, 13, Revised Standard Version).

The scripture exhort us to "Avoid the very appearance of evil," and "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them" (Ephesians 5:11, NIV).

4

Pornography that is judged by the courts as "obscene" is illegal.

The pornography industry, by producing obscenity, has flagrantly and continuously violated federal, state and local laws with apparent immunity from law enforcement, judges and the penal system.

The pornographers use our interstate commerce systems, the mail systems, the importation systems and the communications systems in direct violation of our national and state laws.

Jesus taught His followers to obey the law. Flaunting the law and its enforcement has no part in the Christian value system—or in any civilized society. A lawless society inevitably disintegrates.

Pornography attacks women and children.

Pornography exploits and dehumanizes women as discardable tools for the satisfaction of male lust, and children are abused mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually to satisfy the hedonistic urges of pedophiles. Women and children, when molested and cast aside, are left with indelible scars for the rest of their lives. (In the Good Samaritan parable of Luke 10, Jesus describes how people walk on the other side of the road, leaving a wounded man to fend for himself.)

Christianity ascribes a special place of honor to women and

children. Through centuries when neither were looked upon with favor by pagan societies, God's Word gave them dignity and value.

Conscientious followers of Christ dare not turn their backs on such destructive behavior. Child destroyers are enemies of God!

"It is not the will of my Father in heaven, that one of these little ones perish" (Matthew 18:14, New King James Version).

"Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40, NKJV).

Pornography leads to idolatry.

Ancient Near Eastern history documents the decadence of nations that worshiped fertility gods, using human sex organs as their sym-

shiped fertility gods, using human sex organs as their symbols and prostitution as worship.

Today, pornography supplies the symbols, the rituals, the stimulus and the creed for worshiping the human body and its sexual impulses rather than the eternal Spirit of God. We can celebrate our sexuality, but we must never worship sex.

The central truth of Christianity is belief in one holy God. Jesus said, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only" (Matthew 4:10, NIV).

Christians everywhere must rise up as followers of the one true God and do battle against the idolatrous cult of pornography.

Pornography and greed are partners in evil.

Pornography and greed feed upon each other. The pornography industry takes advantage of people for personal gain, regardless of the destructive impact. Both producer and seller reap huge profits due to exorbitant markups. The coffers of organized crime are filled with tax-free gain from pornography sales.

Greed is displeasing to God and destructive to mankind. God exhorts in His Word that we live by honest labor and that "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (1 Timothy 6:10, NIV).

Pornography is antisex.

Pornography promotes physical satisfaction without caring love, sex without responsibility, union without obligation for the consequences, and exercise of the mating privilege with no regard to the immediate personal and physical consequences nor the eternal consequences originally designed by God to accompany it. The tragedy of pornography is that it undermines wholesome and life-enriching sex and promotes animal coupling.

Columnist James J. Kilpatrick noted that pornography ". . . drains the human sexual relationship of every element of love. In its place the pornographs put lust."

The Bible describes sex as a beautiful and purposeful gift of

God. The sexual encounter between husband and wife is meant to be a source of mutual delight and the means of sharing in God's work of creation.

Pornography destroys normal human relationships.

Pornography dictates that the satisfaction of one's own desires is all that matters. It leaves in its wake broken marriages, estranged and molested children, shattered young people and deteriorating neighborhoods. The producers, promoters and participants couldn't care less.

Jesus taught that we are our brother's keeper. In fact, we are accountable to each other:

"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and convetousness. . . . Put on then, . . . compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another. . . . And above all these put on love, which binds everything together" (Colossians 3:5-14, RSV).

Pornography threatens Western society as we know it.

Pornography is a most vicious, addictive force. It pulls individuals and entire societies away from all that is good and godly.

As Chief Justice Warren Burger remarked, "Hard-core pornography rots the fabric of society."

The Judeo-Christian value system provides the moral and spiritual foundation for our free and democratic society. Men and women are socially, economically and politically free only where they have been freed from the addictive forces of evil. When we cease to be good, we will soon cease to be free.

ummary

The fight against pornography is supported by irrefutable biblical

and logical arguments.

Pornography subverts millions of tax dollars. It corrupts neighborhoods, destroys marriages and families, and plays into the hands of organized crime.

But the most compelling reason the pornography industry must be crushed is because of its defiance of Almighty God.

It is anti-God in its presuppositions and anti-Christian in its practice. It destroys everything that is precious in the sight of God, who has made both men and women to experience love and sex as beautiful, enjoyable and productive gifts within the bonds of marriage. It destroys children, who are the fruit of married love and the beneficiaries of a safe, moral society.

Rise up America! It's time now to join the fight against pornography! It's a winnable war!

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HIS IS AN IMPOR-TANT question and one that must be considered on an individual basis. Fortunately, we have some clear guidelines in the Scriptures to help us discern what is right for each of us. We are warned in 1 Corinthians 6:18 to "flee sexual immorality" [New King James Version]. Now if we will be honest with ourselves, we will have to admit that many of the situations in which we allow ourselves to be caught invite sexual immorality rather than avoid it.

CHARACTER COUNTS

First of all, consider the character of the person you are dating. What kind of a reputation does this person have? By accepting or initiating a date, you are giving that person your stamp of approval. In essence you are saying, "My values and his [or hers] are the same." That in itself can earn you a reputation and put you in a position you may regret later.

A large percentage of rape in our country today is committed, not by strangers, but by men who already know their victims. Another factor in determining whom to date is the abuse of drugs or alcohol. Besides the danger of a car accident, you may find yourself in a situation where a simple "no" will not be accepted. Do not be naive enough to say, "It won't happen to me." Statistics prove over and over that it can happen to anyone.

YOUR BODY TALKS

If you are constantly being asked out by the wrong type of person, take the time to find



out why. Are you "sending a message" by the way you dress, by your actions, by those you associate with, or by the places you go? Perhaps you have a secret reputation brought on by gossip because you dated someone of doubtful character.

If you find yourself attracted to unspiritual or immoral friends, you have a definite problem of the heart. Stop dating anyone until you have time to receive counseling about this, and correct it. Otherwise, you probably are headed for a life of heartache.

WHERE SIN BEGINS

Sexual sin is not necessarily performed outwardly; rather, it

is in the heart where the sin first occurs. Jesus explained this in Matthew 5:28: "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" [NKJV].

A word to young women who are attracted to young men in trouble: Perhaps you feel you can help, or that he "needs" you. But you actually are in danger of being used or even seduced. It is the maternal instinct that God has instilled in every young lady's nature that causes these feelings.

TEMPTING YOURSELF

Also do not tempt yourself by going to the wrong places. Example: Never be alone at a home with a date. Many good intentions have been forgotten because the temptation and opportunity were too great. The same applies to parking and petting. Sexual feelings are being stirred up that cannot righteously be fulfilled.

Anything you do to encourage sexual desire is also tempting to yourself. Petting with everyone you are attracted to will soon lead to an abused mind, body, and personality, because you have allowed your person to be "used" by others.

Flee sexual immorality—don't encourage it. "But [each] one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren" (James 1:14-16, [NKJV]).

From *The Transformer, The Bible for Young Adults.* Printed by permission of Thomas Nelson Publishers. Call 1-800-251-7216 (1-800-821-4179 in TN) for a copy. \$12.95



M

Y FIRST ENCOUNTER with death came when I was almost five years old. We lived next door to my best friend,

Elaine Broughton, and not only did we spend most days together playing in the sandbox, we also went to the same church. We sat side by side in Primary class sharing crayons and coloring pictures of Jesus.

Even at that age, He was very much a part of our young lives. At play we often sang, "Jesus loves me, this I know. . . ." We knew He watched over us as we slept, played with us as we dug in the awning-covered sandbox and listened to our troubles when no one else would. We didn't know a lot about Him; we just knew that He was always there, loving us.

One sun-filled morning when blobs of shade had gathered under the trees, I ran across the yard and onto Elaine's porch. I peered through the screen and called for her to come out and play.

Her grandmother came to the door and looked down at me. Then she came quietly outside. She was a gentle woman, and I remember her patting the porch swing and inviting me to join her. I climbed up, and she put an arm around my shoul-

ders. In words I could not fully comprehend, she explained that Elaine "had diabetes and had gone to live with Jesus." In my mind's eye, I can still see the bees hovering around the hollyhocks that bordered their porch . . . still remember how full-throated the morning glories looked. Then, I returned home to play alone.

I took the news with childlike acceptance and don't even remember crying. Her explanation of where Elaine had gone was so gentle and reassuring that all it left me with was regret that Elaine had not taken me with her—or at least told me where she was going before she went off and left me behind! At that age, I didn't understand that none of us have the right to choose when we will go and live with Jesus—I just looked forward to it.

I suppose everyone wonders about death. After all, all we've known is life, and what is unknown is often frightening. The Bible helps us understand death, however, when we begin to question with a searching heart . . . when we can look death full in the face and know it is not a punishment—only an end to life as we know it.

Lovingly Jesus says, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3).

Jesus is expecting us and preparing for our arrival. When we believe in Him, we can join Him in the place He has prepared.

But in what manner will we dwell with Him? If we look in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 47-49, we find the answer. "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption: it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness: it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. . . . The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."

What a marvelous hope! All the sins, weaknesses, pains—both physical and mental—all the imperfections of our earthly body will be left behind. When Christ raises us from the dead, He will do so in glory! We will have a spiritual body, and Christ will guide our way. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

What a glorious prospect!

There are so many passages throughout the Bible that tell us about life after death that there are really no unanswered questions regarding it. God has told us all. Knowing these things gives me a sense of peaceful acceptance in my Master's plan and even allows me to look forward with joy to joining Jesus in His Father's house-the time when, like Elaine Broughton and all the other loved ones who have gone before, I will have "gone to live with Jesus." I will be home at last!



A LETTER TO LISA

WHY IS IT WRONG to have sex with your boyfriend if you are genuinely in love with him? We plan to get married someday anyhow; why wait?

Thank you, Lisa, for calling Youth Talkline (see p. 7). As I told you on the phone, I am calling you Lisa to protect confidentiality. I appreciate your permitting me to share with Lighted Pathway readers some of the things we talked about. Your questions are on the minds of many teens these days, and they should be squarely faced.

Lisa, how many times have you ever been in love? The average teenage girl falls in and out of love at least 10 times, according to psychologists who are supposed to know these things. Teenage boys fall in and out of love at least six times.

These facts point up the importance of waiting until marriage before giving yourself sexually to someone you feel deeply about. Although you may be sure you love him, you need to ask yourself if you and your friend are ready, emotionally and developmentally, to give up your singleness and commit to one person for the rest of your life. If you are, then why not go ahead and get married be-

fore you go to bed with each other? That way, you have the peace of mind of knowing you are following God's guidelines for fulfillment and obedience.

If you or your friend are not ready for marriage, for whatever reason, you should not give yourself sexually to him. God's plan for sex is clear. He wants you to give yourself completely to the person you marry—and only to him. It is impossible to give your total self-physically, spiritually and emotionally-to several different people. Those who try wind up being able to give only a part of themselves. Don't ruin your chances for a good marriage by giving yourself away beforehand.

God created us, according to Genesis 1:26-28, for Him and in His image. Thus, we cannot be satisfied, we cannot be complete, we cannot be fulfilled without Him. Sex is not cheap or dirty when it is practiced in accordance with the principles outlined in Scripture. If you are serious and are considering a lifetime commitment, get with your friend and talk over these points:

List the qualities you admire in a person, and see how your friend measures up.

Look at the dreams and

goals in your lives. Do they clash or mesh? Are both of you capable of changing?

Explore your feelings about rearing children. Do you have the same thoughts on this subject?

List all the annoying habits you see in each other. Compare lists. Talk over your irritations.

Examine the ideals and ethics in your lives. Are they the same? What about questions of honesty? of openness?

Clarify your goals about serving God and pleasing Him in life.

You and I agree, Lisa, that the important thing is what God says. He says in His Word that sex before marriage is immoral. He also says in 1 Corinthians 6:13, "The body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord" (NKJV). A final word from God is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:3—"You should abstain from sexual immorality" (NKJV).

I am praying for you, Lisa, to have the moral courage to resist temptation and stay true to God and His Word. I hope you will save yourself until marriage.

—Marcus Hand, Editor

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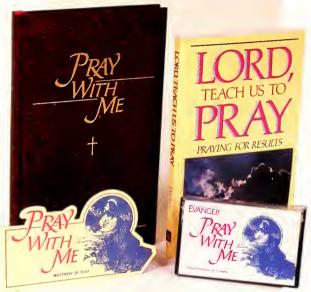
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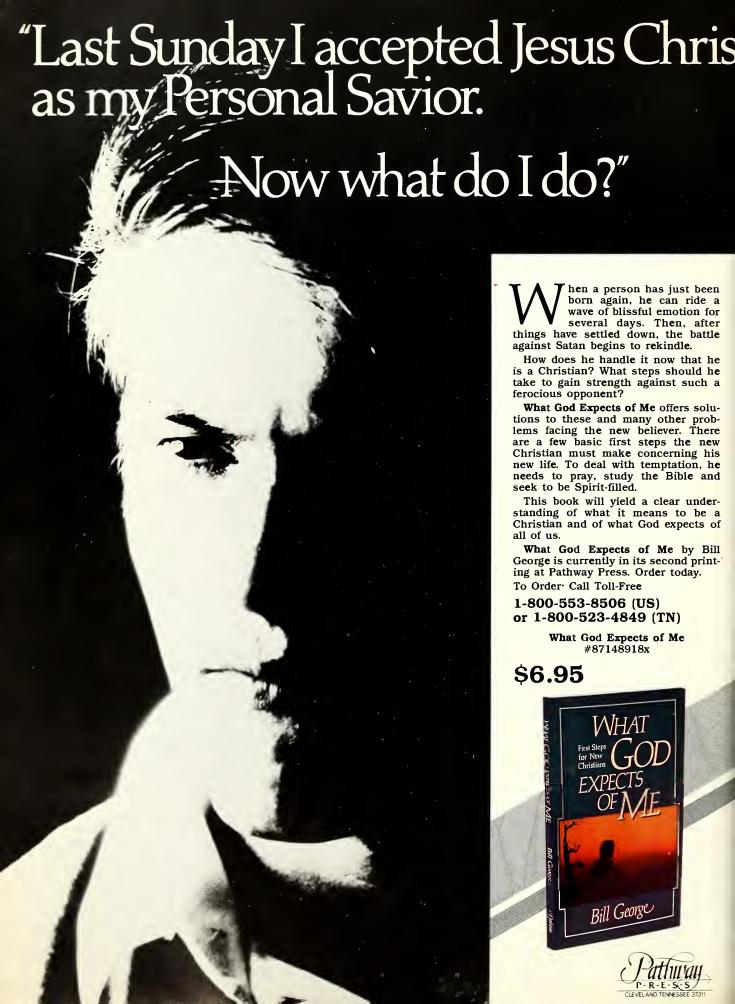
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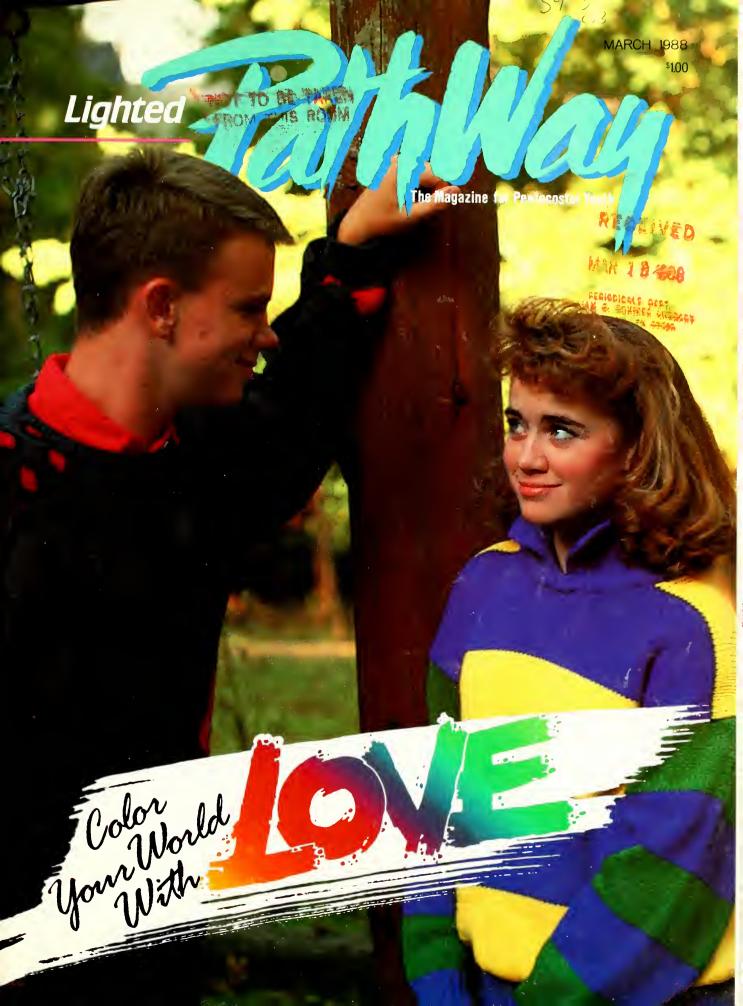
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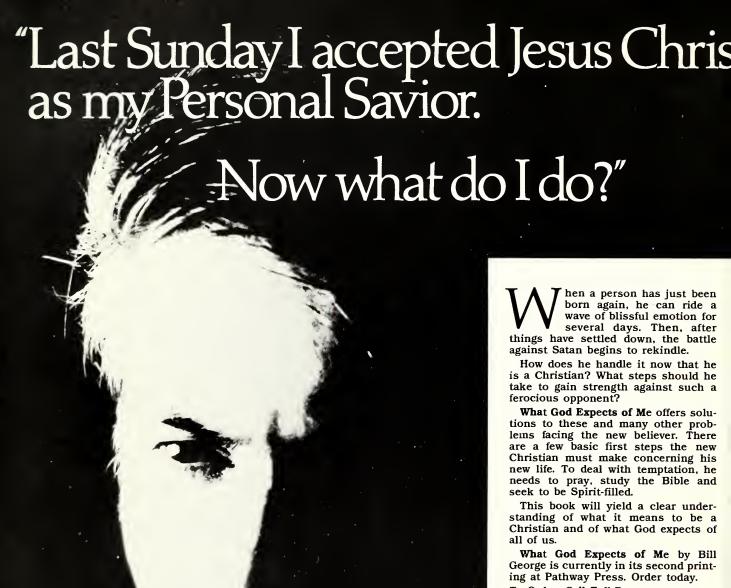
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MARCH 1988

VOLUME 59, NO. 3

Color Your World, a theme your church talks about this month, provides the backdrop for this issue. Through prayer, witnessing, loving, honoring spiritual leaders and obeying the Great Commission, we can make a major difference wherever we are. Explore these exciting ways with us.



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Plan for College p. 18

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National Singles Ministry Summit

A MINISTRY by singles, not just for singles, was emphasized at the second annual Singles Leaders Summit held Jan. 22-23 in Cleveland, Tenn.

Single adults constitute
a "mission field in your office plair the state"

building, your apartment complex, your neighborhood," J. Randle Weeks, national singles ministry consultant, said to singles leaders from nine states. "Current statistics indicate there are 64 million adult singles in the United States." He explained that these 64 million equal the population of eight Southeastern states and Canada.



Singles leader Sonny Hickox listens to an inspirational talk,

The group worships.



Sonjia Hunt, J. Randle Weeks and Assistant General Director Junus Fulbright lead the group in prayer.

Citing "Where does it hurt, and how can I help?" as the basic premise of singles ministry, Weeks added that this ministry by singles, not just for singles, simply requires "taking care of [God's] business."

Local and state leaders from Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, North and South Georgia, West Virginia, Maryland, Alabama and New Jersey discussed strategics for singles in order to "make an impact" in the Church of God.

During the two-day Summit session, leaders discussed the philosophy of singles ministry, heard reports from state singles leaders, and discussed plans for implementing state and local singles programs.

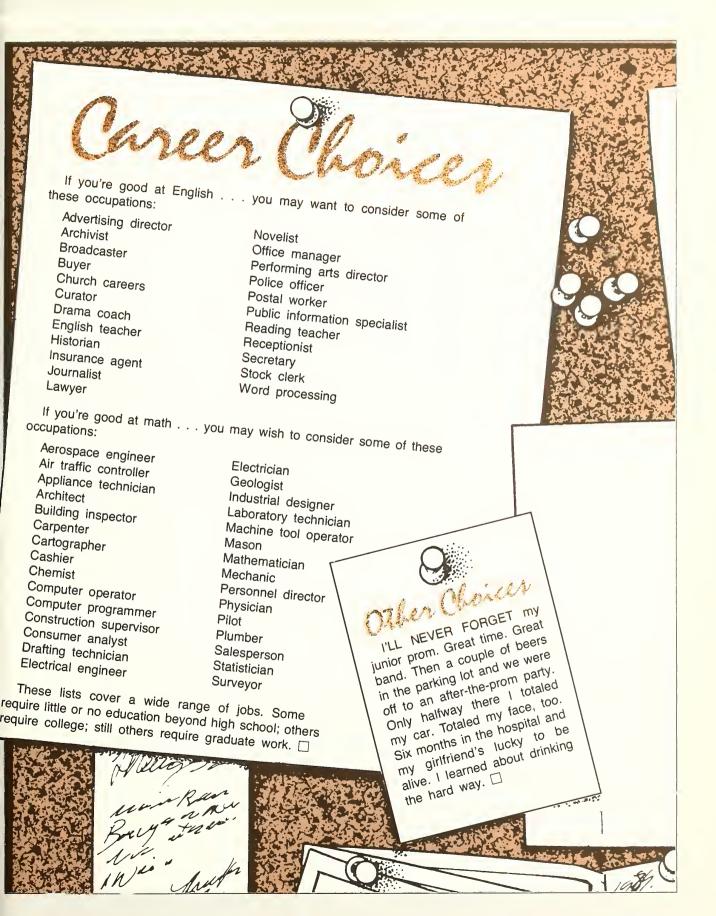
Other featured speakers were Junus Fulbright, assistant general director of Youth and Christian Education; Robert D. McCall, ministries coordinator; Sonjia Hunt, family/singles ministries coordinator; Bob Fisher, psychology instructor at Lee College; and Michael Chapman, pastor of Chattanooga's Lee Highway Church of God.

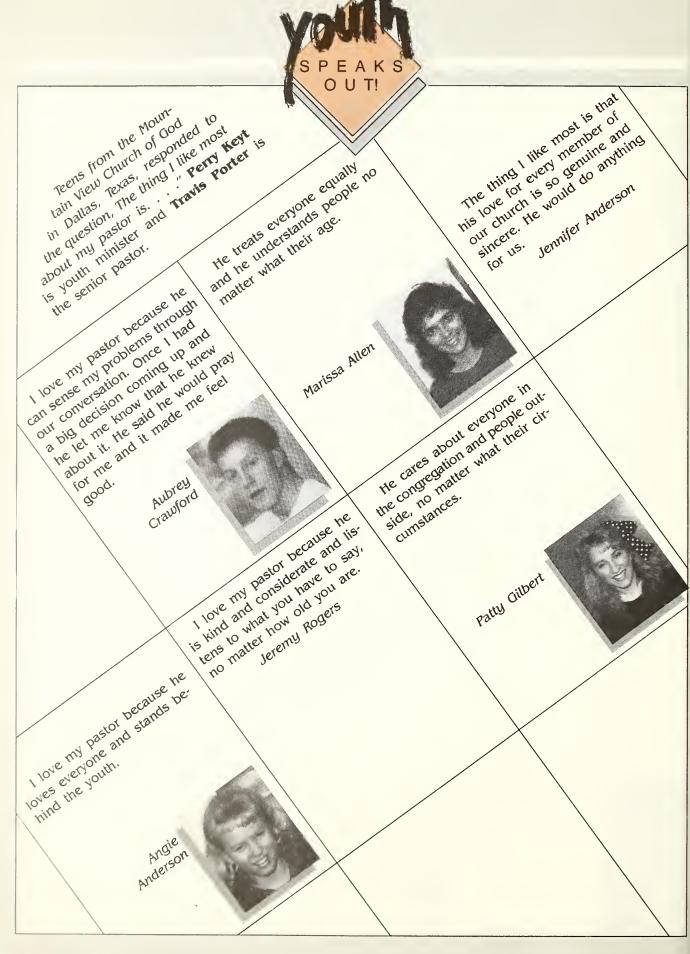
Also present at the meeting were members of the 1988 National Singles Conference steering committee: Sandy Evans, Christine Fritz, Linda Hickey and Marilyn Moseley.

The National Singles Conference will be held Oct. 28-30. The steering committee has adopted "Color Your World With Love" as the conference theme. Featured speakers will be Jim and Barb Dycus. Conference location will be announced at a later date.

"The Lord is tapping people who have a divine mandate from God for singles ministry," Weeks concluded. Noting that leadership at the national level has captured the vision for this ministry, he added, "The field is 'ripe unto harvest.'"

-Nancy A. Neal







HAVE YOU TRIED THE NEW EXCLUSIVE YOUTH TALKLINE

Each month *Lighted Pathway* publishes a monthly topic or survey question. When you call YOUTH TALKLINE follow this procedure:

- Dial the YOUTH TALKLINE number: 6154 SURVEY, or (615) 478-7839.
- 2. At the sound of the tone, speak up clearly.
- 3. Give your full name, age, city and state.
- 4. Respond to the topic of the month.

Lighted Pathway will endeavor to answer ali your questions, either by correspondence or through an article in the magazine. If you wish a personal response, be sure to give your address on the YOUTH TALKLINE.

YOUTH TALKLINE SUBJECT:

"To me, being filled with the Holy Spirit means . . ."



Youth

I enjoy reading the *Lighted Pathway*. I relate to the articles. They are uplifting both spiritually and emotionally. The articles also give me courage.

-Melinda Sykes Fayetteville, N.C.

Parent

I would like to subscribe to the Lighted Pathway for my daughter because the articles are well put together and are the kind of reading material I would like my daughter to read.

-Liz Hancock Ft. Pierce, Fla.

Teacher

We are so proud of a youth class that is "on fire" for the Lord and is willing to stand before all and witness unashamedly. Lighted Pathway inspired us to begin a newsletter.

Patricia Knippel Kalama, Wash.

Overseer

The Lighted Pathway has shown so much improvement through the years. I read it because I know I need to hear what God has to say and because I try to remain as youthful as I possibly can in my mind.

-Ray SandersState OverseerWest Virginia



PRAYER

How to obey the injunction "Pray without ceasing." RAYER IS THE BEST way to meet every need and every task. Instead of concentrating on listening to long prayers and longer sermons on it, learn to make brief sentence prayers many times a day.

You have a thousand times more mental and physical energy than your church has helped you use creatively. By praying for world leaders, for example, you actually mold world history. Learn to pray with reckless abandon. This sense that you can do something vital will rescue you from cynicism, enlarge your worldview, create interest in important affairs, keep you close to God, make you ambitious to serve, give you a sense of mission and keep you from throwing your life away.

We need a cause and a program we can all undertake at once. Prayer is one such program, and making a difference in the world is the cause.



HE ORCE HAT OLORS HE VORLD



Praying Touches Anyone

Most of us can never enter the White House to advise the President. Probably he will never have time to read our letters. But we can give him what is far more important than advice. We can give him a lift into the presence of God and make him hungry for divine wisdom. We can visit the White House with prayer as many times a day as we think of it. Every visit makes us a channel between God and the President.

Praying Accumulates

The sun could keep nothing alive by shining only one minute a day. Life itself is dependent on the sun's rays, yet a single ray of light cannot produce life. One raindrop cannot penetrate the earth to find its way to the roots of a tree. Nor does one seed a forest make. It takes an accumulation of many.

So every prayer may not always affect those for whom it is intended, but every prayer reaches somebody somewhere. Occasional feeble prayers will get only feeble results. One minute a day will not save us.

Prayer is powerful, but its power is not like that of a sledgehammer, which crushes with one blow. Sun rays and raindrops bless the earth because there are so many of them. Instead of a minute a day, we must learn to send up hundreds of instantaneous prayers for people near and far. Many may show no visible results, but we know that some will. When you fill a swamp with stones, a hundred loads may disappear under the water before one stone will appear on the surface—but all are necessary.

Praying Produces Results

To pray, you need not leave home or neglect what you are doing. Everyone, in every ordinary day, has hundreds of chunks of wasted time that may be filled with *brief prayers* 10 seconds or a minute long.

Some of us sit behind people on the bus, in cafeterias or restaurants, at concerts or lectures, and pray at the backs of their heads with our eyes open and see many of them show signs of being aware.

Brief prayers usually make some of the people near you act as though they had been spoken to. They look at you curiously, often smile and frequently say something. Sometimes strangers will behave like a friend. People seem to like us to pray for them.

Praying Transforms Personality

I am personality zero when I do not pray. The moment prayer starts, a strange, sweet kindliness begins to appear on people's faces, and they look at me, ready to talk. Until you try prayer for others, you miss one of life's richest joys.

When we pray for a person, or a group, it feels as though we have thrown a spiritual cloak around them. When another person is praying for me, I can feel the same spiritual cloak enveloping me. Praying for others begets love instead of the spirit of criticism. It is a good corrective for that unlovely tendency we have to disapprove of others. The more unattractive people are, the more we need to love them and pray for what they can, with God's help, become.

Praying Rejuvenates

Prayer for others is the finest tonic I know. When you are utterly tired from work or study, walk out into the street and say a brief prayer for someone. Your nerves will tingle with the inflow from heaven.

There is no more exhilarating way of taking exercise than a walking prayer. When your brain is weary, go out into a crowd and waft prayers in all directions. Let them trail, like a bridal veil, after people who pass you. If your experience duplicates mine, you will feel a strange power developing like some long-unused muscle. You will be strengthening your soul.

Prayer is the mightiest force in the world. Prayer's power has been proven many millions of times. We could transform the world if we prayed enough.



SOME BROADER STROKES OF WITNESSING

CHERYL STALEY

"EVERYONE COMMUNICATES
. . . always. Agree, or disagree?"
Mark, our creative youth pastor, challenged us.

"I agree," Betsy said, struggling to be heard over general pandemonium. "In drama class we learned that even when we don't have any lines, every move we make and even our facial expressions and the positions of our bodies communicate something to the audience." "Maybe it's true in drama," interjected Todd, our youth group's outspoken president, "but you're on stage then. I can refuse to communicate with my history teacher when she assigns a term paper and I don't turn one in and I don't see her to make some sort of excuse."

"You are still communicating something, Todd," Pastor Mark replied. "Your teacher may assume you were too lazy to do the research . . . or that you

were more interested in memorizing football plays than in writing the paper . . . or that you were having family problems and didn't have time to work on it. None of those things would necessarily be true, but you would have communicated something by your lack of communication."

"That's an interesting concept, but I agree with Todd," Jon, a shy sophomore honor student, said. "If someone took

all of his belongings and moved into a wilderness area, became self-sufficient and never made contact with the public, he would be failing to communicate. It is possible to be a hermit."

"I guess you have a point, Jon," Betsy admitted.

"Not so fast," Pastor Mark said. "Jon, as long as anyone knew your hermit was alive, the hermit would be making some kind of a statement. He would be saying to those who knew him that he was hurt so badly by a past relationship he wanted to run from people or that he was too unbalanced to handle human interaction. Both of those could be untrue, but someone from his pre-hermit existence would probably think that one of these things was true."

"Pastor Mark?" Tim asked. "What's the bottom line on this discussion? I'm sure you have something in mind besides Betsy's drama class or Jon's hermit."

"Yes," the youth pastor responded, unconsciously pushing his dark hair from his forehead. "My point is that we are always communicating something about the gospel whether

we realize it or not. What we don't say can be just as powerful as what we do say. Can anyone give me any ideas along this line?"

"I think I can," Andrea volunteered. "It's like how we react to Pastor Miller or our Sunday school teachers. If we never tell them that the things they are teaching are helping us grow in our Christian lives, they might think we don't appreciate them. Or even that we aren't learning anything."

"Thank you, Andrea. I hadn't thought of that angle before," Pastor Mark admitted. "I want to read you a verse found in 2 Corinthians 4:3, and then someone can tell me what it means in terms of this discussion. 'But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost.'"

The group grew quiet and thoughtful for several moments. Pastor Mark stood silently, waiting for them to puzzle out the connection for themselves.

"I think I know what you mean," Denise broke the silence. "If I never say anything about Jesus, the kids I work with on the annual staff may think the only reason I attend church is because my dad is

the pastor. If I don't tell them how great it is to be a Christian, then they may never hear it from someone else."

"And if I don't share the gospel with the guys on the football team," added Todd, "they might think that the only reason I belong to this youth group is because I date Denise or because we have great parties."

"You're making some excellent points," Pastor Mark said. "Let me add another verse to our discussion. This one is found in Colossians 3:17. Pay special attention to one word I'm going to stress. 'And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.'"

"It is like a role in a play," Betsy began tentatively. "Your words are important, but the actions that go with your lines are even more important."

"If we give a testimony, then we ought to live a testimony," added Dana. "But that first verse you read pretty much says it all. If we hide our experience with God, who do we think we're hiding it from? The very kids who need it most."

"Now we're all learning," Pastor Mark said quietly. \square



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¥



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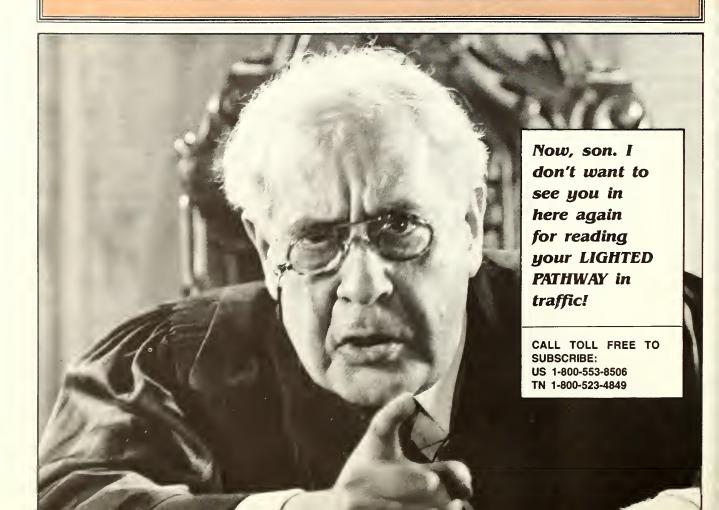
Mark Rutland



Saturday • 4:00 pm TOGETHER IN HARVEST

SATURDAY Breakaway Seminar for Teenagers with Barry St. Clair 9:00-4:00

A Ministry Conference that will change your life and help you change this generation



THE CONTRACTOR OF LOVE

the person. While the initial attraction is exciting, true love has to have time to grow.

Love grows as you learn to trust and have faith in each other. Insecure feelings make poor soil in which to nurture the tender plant of love. Jealousy in a relationship prevents the bond of genuine love from cementing.

Love grows in the rain as well as in the sunshine. Something is not necessarily wrong if you don't feel happy all the time. It's OK to not feel on top of the world all the time. Resolving conflicts and facing up to your fears are as much a part of building as is joy.

True love faces reality. It is not blind. It endures because it does not close its eyes to reality.

True love begins with God's love, and God's love colors the other loves in our life.

Let's look at love and see what the Bible says about it.

The sweet taste clings to the inside of your mouth and lingers long after the last crunchy,

OLLIPOPS.

I love lollipops.

crumbly bit is gone. My dentist doesn't like them. He says I should brush after eating one or they'll ruin my teeth.

Still, I love lollipops. I get some every time I go to the mall.

Love? Did I say love? What kind of

love is it that focuses on Iollipops? It's a different kind from what I'm talking about when I say I love my parents. Or my best friend. For sure, it's different from what I'm talking about when I say I love God. Or He Ioves me.

Just what is love anyway? Does love come in different flavors? What is true love?

True love grows. "Love at first sight" is a strong mutual attraction, but it is more infatuation than anything else. You become fascinated by the way a person looks and speaks. You want to be around him or her and learn more about

HOW TO W·A·L·K IN LOVE

Read 1 John 4:7-5:5. These 20 verses give 10 ways to know you are in God's love. Read the appropriate verses, and list two steps to take in "walking out" the commands of God. The first one is completed as an example.

- 1. Know God-vv. 7, 8
 - a. Give my heart to Jesus
 - b. Stay in touch with Him by talking to Him and reading His Word
- 2. Accept His offer of forgiveness-vv. 9, 10
 - a
 - b
- 3. Love one another-vv. 11, 12
 - a. _____
- 4. Abide in God's love-vv. 13, 14
 - a. _____
 - b.
- 5. Believe in God's love-vv. 15, 16
 - a. _____

- b. _____
- 6. Get rid of your fear-vv. 17, 18
 - a. _____
- 7. Love your brother and sister-vv. 20, 21
- 8. Make sure you are born again -5:1
 - .
 - **L**
- 9. Keep God's commandments-vv. 2, 3
 - a. _____
 - D. _____
- 10. Overcome the world-vv. 4, 5
 - a. _____
 - b

Everything that I understand, I understand only because I love.

-Leo Tolstoy



THE LIFESTYLE OF LOVE

The thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians is often called a hymn of love. Although it has probably been quoted more times than any other single chapter in Scripture, it remains a universal favorite. Read the passage aloud from your Bible.

—Verses 1-3 tell the language of love.

- -Verses 4-8a give the lifestyle of love.
- -Verses 8b-13 explain the leadership of love.

Discuss this comparison of verses 4-8a in the *Phillips* translation, *New International Version*, *Living Bible*, and *New American Standard Bible*.

Phillips says	NIV says	Living Bible says	NASB says
This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience	Is patient	Is patient	Is patient
It looks for a way of being constructive	Is kind	Is kind	Is kind
It is not possessive	Does not envy	Is never jealous or envious	Is not jealous
It is neither anxious to impress	Does not boast	Never boastful	Does not brag
Nor does it cherish in- flated ideas of its own importance	Is not proud	Never proud	Is not arrogant
Love has good manners	Is not rude	Never haughty or selfish or rude	Does not act unbecomingly
It does not pursue selfish advantage	Is not self-seeking	Does not demand its own way	Does not seek its own
It is not touchy	Is not easily angered	Is not irritable or touchy	Is not provoked
It does not keep account of evil	Keeps no record of wrongs	Does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong	Does not take into account a wrong suffered
Or gloat over the wick- edness of other people	Does not delight in evil	Is never glad about in- justice	Does not rejoice in un- righteousness
It shares the joy of those who live by the truth	Rejoices with the truth	Rejoices whenever truth wins out	Rejoices with the truth
Love knows no limit to its endurance	Always protects	You will be loyal no mat- ter what the cost	Bears all things
No end to its trust	Always trusts	You will always believe in him	Believes all things
No fading of its hope	Always hopes	Always expect the best of him	Hopes all things
It can outlast anything	Always perseveres	Always stand your ground in defending him	Endures all things
Love never fails	Love never fails	Love goes on forever	Love never fails

BibleStu

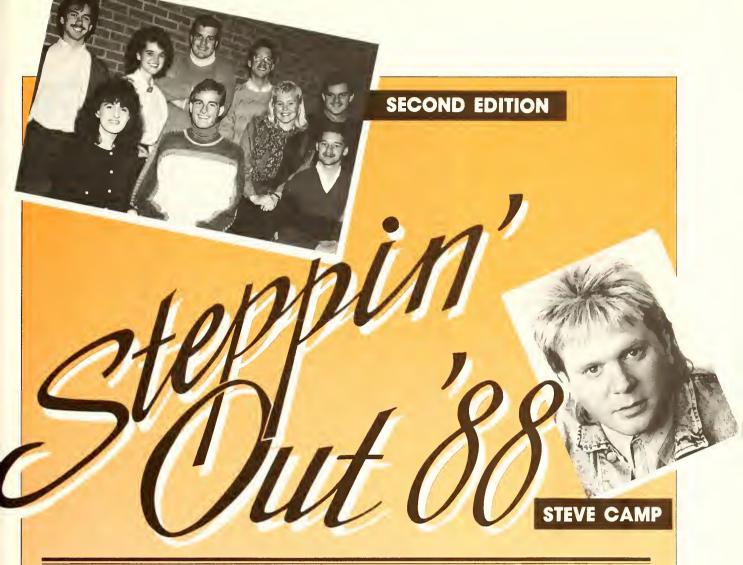
HELPS IN STUDYING GOD'S WORD BETTY LOU MELL

GOD SPEAKS DIRECTLY to each of us through His Word. He has included history, prophecy, poetry, letters and law throughout the Bible. He explains the meaning of life and shows us the way to salvation and right living by doing His will. He answers our questions.

To study the Bible and determine what is God's will for your life, it is important to study and learn to understand God's Word.

- 1. Read your Bible prayerfully every day. Take notes and underline verses that give you special insight into your life and problems.
- 2. Memorize key verses. Think about what they mean for your life.
- 3. Use your cross-reference study Bible, concordance and other study tools to help you get the most out of Bible study.
- 4. Do not take verses out of context. Read the entire chapter or passage carefully to be sure you grasp the full meaning.
- 5. Research the various people, customs and geography of biblical times. Acquaint yourself with the kingdoms and customs that existed at the period.
- 6. Identify whom God is speaking to in each scripture.
- 7. Understand that God's Word is timeless. Its message of salvation applies to your life as fully today as it did to people in Bible times.
- 8. Memorize the books of the Bible in order. This will save time when you are searching for particular scriptures.

Remember this as you study: Our understanding may be limited, but God's Word is infallible.



A MEGACELEBRATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Banquet ● Concert ● Entertainment ● Friends ● Surprises ●



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Atlanta Marriott Northwest Grand Ballroom

Atlanta, Georgia

Special guests: Dan Noel, Second Edition, and Steve Camp

Contact North Georgia Youth Ministries Office (448-9300)

-Strictly a coat and tie occasion —

IF YOU'RE GOING to college after graduation, you're probably spending a lot of time thinking about it already. It will be a new experience. As the time draws near and you begin making preparation for the big event, you may feel a little nervous, too. How can you be sure you are selecting a college that will be suitable to your particular needs? How do you select the right college?

Let other people give you help. Talking it over with your family, friends, teachers and school counselors makes it easier for you to decide on the college you want to attend. Ask them for advice and information. Consult someone who is already going to college or who attended college not too many years ago. Visit with someone who's familiar with college entrance exams, out-of-state entrance fees and other procedures you haven't even thought of.

Use the telephone to get information you want. The process of finding out what you need to know isn't as difficult as you may think. It begins with a simple phone call. Contact the admissions offices of the colleges and universities that interest you. Request their catalogs, brochures and admissions applications, as well as financial aid information. If there are any questions you wish to ask, don't hesitate to do so. They'll be glad to help you in any way they can.

Visit the colleges that interest you. After you've narrowed it down to two or three colleges that appeal to you, it's time to



MAKE PLANS FOR COLLAGE AGNES KEMPTON

Money, scholarships, grants, loans, -- learn ho

do a little footwork. A campus visit may be what's needed to help you reach a final decision. It'll provide you with firsthand information you can't get from a catalog. It'll also give you a chance to familiarize yourself with the atmosphere.

Make your visit pay off. Arrange to spend the night in a residence hall. Eat in the school cafeteria. Attend some classes, if it can be arranged, and talk with some of the students, especially those majoring in the same field you're considering. If possible, schedule an appointment with a professor in that department.

Be sure to check out facilities such as the library, gym, theater and student center, as well as various living arrangements. The more you know, the better your chance will be of making the right decision.

Get acquainted with the people in the admissions office. An important part of any campus visit should be a conversation with those in the admissions office. It will be your opportunity to gather more information about the particular college or university. At the same time, it'll give the staff members a chance to get acquainted with you. The admissions office should be your first contact when you visit any college.

Some ways to finance your college education. You may prefer to save money by living at home and attending a local state college. If you plan to attend a school in another locality, it'll be more costly. Fortunately, there are many types of

financial aid available to students today. They include the following:

GRANTS. These come in many forms and are based on financial need. Grants don't have to be repaid.

SCHOLARSHIPS. These don't have to be repaid, but they are based on such criteria as academic, athletic or artistic ability, rather than financial need.

LOANS. You'll find a difference in interest rates, the time in which they must be repaid and what it takes to qualify for them. Guaranteed Student Loans, offered by the federal government, are probably the ones with the most advantages.

EMPLOYMENT. You may qualify for College Work Study—a federally subsidized job program that provides students with on- and off-campus, parttime jobs. If you don't have a financial need, you can still find many job opportunities in the community where your college or university is located.

The financial aid office at the college will help you choose and design the financial aid package that fits your needs. Funds are generally limited, so apply as soon as possible after making your decision.

What you do with your college years is a clue to how you will fare in the job market. You may want to go into teaching, business administration, journalism or some other profession. College will give you the basic education to pursue your chosen career. This means the decisions you're making now will be very important ones.

COLLEGE SKILLS

No matter what courses you take in college, you're going to need some basic skills.

READING. You'll have a lot of studying to do in college. To prepare yourself for this, you should practice reading for speed and understanding. Work on your concentration. Try to get more out of what you read in less time.

WRITING. Start now to improve your writing skills. Whatever you write, it should communicate your thoughts clearly to other people.

STUDYING. Set a time and place where you can study in private. Then work out a schedule for your study, and discipline yourself to stick to it.

SPEAKING AND LISTEN- ING. Learn to speak effectively. Also, be ready to listen to what other people have to say. Consider their thoughts and ideas, and try to learn from others.

LEADERSHIP. Take a leadership role in some of your activities. Both colleges and potential employers want people with leadership abilities.

TYPING. Everyone should know how to type. This skill is especially useful in college and in the job market. \square

gain an advantage in college-- and in life.

FINANCING YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION

W. R. ANDERSON



ore than 12 million students are currently attending colleges, universities, vocational schools, technical schools or nursing schools.

Expenditures for attending college are estimated at \$260 billion. Of this, the federal government contributes approximately \$12 billion, an average of \$1,000 per student. Although intended primarily for low-income families, aid is available to students who are *not* desperately poor. Usually it goes to students aware of the many sources and who are actively exploring them.

You should first obtain a free copy of *The Student Guide—Five Federal Financial Aid Programs* by writing to Public Documents Distribution Center, Pueblo, CO 81009. The pamphlet gives details on

- Pell Grants
- Guaranteed Student Loans and PLUS Loans
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants
- College Work-Study
- National Direct Student Loans

Grants do not have to be repaid. Work study provides an opportunity to earn money. Loans must be repaid, usually after graduation, with interest.

STATE PROGRAMS

Each state has its own requirements and application forms. Generally, aid is available for residents of that state for colleges and universities in that state. High school quidance counselors should have information about application. Most important, probably, are legislative scholarships paying for tuition at state colleges and universities. In Illinois, for example, each of the 177 senators and representatives has eight scholarships to award. Many are never claimed.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS

Financial aid directors at each college administer their own programs of grants and loans. They also administer the campusbased programs from the list above and funds from other sources. The aid director at the college should be contacted early—preferably by a personal visit. He or she can be of tremendous help.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Although introduced in 1906, this remains a well-kept secret. The National Commission for Cooperative Education (360 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115) reports that 200,000 students in 900 colleges and universities are employed part-time in 50,000 industries, large and small. This arrangement has many advantages not only in providing important income but also in offering firsthand experience in how a workday is spent. And it is a source for important

"previous experience" to record in future resumes on graduation.

BARTERING FOR TUITION

A new and interesting development is presented by Educational Assistance Ltd. (520 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611). They have arranged with almost 100 colleges to accept needed merchandise in lieu of tuition dollars, provided either by the student (through companies he has solicited) or through previously arranged donations. Still a "pilot" program, the firm expects to involve 300 colleges, with scholarships amounting to many millions of dollars.

PRIVATE SOURCES

Many charitable foundations, business and professional firms, technical and ethnic societies, and generous individuals offer grants and loans. These depend on the student's interests, residence, religion, program or ancestral roots. The total of such funds is estimated in excess of \$10 billion.

According to *The Scholarship Book*, "At least \$6.6 billion of student financial aid from the private sector goes unused each year. . . . People haven't known where to find it." To contact the tens of thousands of sources would be an overwhelming task. A number of companies have loaded all pertinent data into computers and will supply a list for which you may be qualified for a moderate fee. One company—Scholastic Financial Service (Box 301, Chicago, IL

60690)—provides a list of five to 25 sources. Five are guaranteed or the fee is refunded.

BUY A HOUSE, RENT OUT ROOM

A number of families have provided free education for a son or daughter, and made a profit, by buying a large, older house near the campus. Using a Parents Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS), the necessary outof-pocket down payment may be little or nothing. Renters provide funds for monthly mortgage payments, the student lives free and gains valuable experience in managing a house. He or she learns to pay bills, provide maintenance and collect from tardy tenants.

When school days are over, there seems to be no problem in selling the house. One parent advertised in local papers, "Put your student through college free," and was swamped with phone calls. "I could have sold a dozen houses," he said with a grin.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Be sure to observe all deadlines. Thousands of applications are rejected for failure to arrive on time; for example, Pell Grant applications must be received by May 1 if you plan to use it in September.

Type the applications; good handwriting seems to be a lost art.

Good luck, student.

America needs you—in large quantities! □

START A CHRISTIAN CLUB AT SCHOOL

FRAZIER TAMI

DO YOU EVER FEEL your Christian witness at school sputters? Are you searching for ways to reach out to the unsaved, or to get to know other Christians, but can't seem to find what you're looking for? A single candle lights the darkness, but a group of Christians together can be a bonfire. Seek out other Christian students and shine together for Christ!

A simple way to begin a Christian fellowship group is to gather for devotions and prayer. You don't need a sponsor or an officially established club to meet as a group of friends. Big numbers aren't important, either. Two or three people gathering five to 10 minutes each morning before school or during lunch can change the atmosphere on campus.

School devotions may be the only Word and prayer some group members will receive all day. Have a different person read and pray each day. You'll find that the different perspectives of other Christians will enrich you and broaden your application of the Word to your life. Sharing prayer requests binds group members together. Use these prayer ideas in your group:

- Keep a prayer notebook. Record the date of each reguest, and then keep track of answers.
- Adopt a prayer project each week. Pray for a for-

"School devotions may be the only Word and prayer some will receive all day."

eign missionary, a church body, a government official. Pray for a community or school leader, an unsaved family member, a classmate or a teacher.

- Find a one-on-one prayer pal with whom you can share special needs.
- Organize a prayer chain. If a group member has an urgent need for prayer when you're out of school, he or she can telephone the person at the top of the chain, who in turn will call the next person to pass on the need.
- and distribute Copy prayer needs to group members at the beginning of each month or week. Advertise the Christian club's existence and group's seriousness concerning prayer. Draw in new members by asking other Christians on campus to pray for those needs.

Open the group to all interested students on campus. Invite students you consider to be nominal or inactive Christians, as well as non-Christians, to devotions and group activities. They may be looking for ways to draw closer to God, for Christian friends or for ministry opportunities. They could also be shy students. Your flame can spark non-Christians and nominal Christians, motivating them to draw closer to Christ.

Students of various denominations and of various degrees of commitment can compose a fellowship group at a nonreligious school. Be tolerant of beliefs and doctrines different from your own. Take advantage of the opportunity to peacefully learn about differences in beliefs. When you disagree with the interpretation or belief of a fellow student, get into the Word yourself. Learn why you believe what you believe. When in disagreement, pray and ask God to give wisdom and discernment to your heart and to vour brother's or sister's heart.

Young Christians who most need a circle of Christian friends also require the most patience and support. All Christians, together, form Christ's body.

Encourage your brothers and sisters during the week. Support and uplift them with a smile, with an encouraging word, or with small notes or Bible verses placed in their lockers.

Besides meeting together on campus for nourishment, reach out to minister and fellowship off campus. Get to know each other in a casual setting, and learn each other's talents and needs. Spending time together strengthens relationships. Through off-campus outings you can attract students who do not attend

Christian activities at school.

Go bowling, skating, miniature golfing, picnicking or hiking. Go out to eat or to someone's house to watch television. Organize special ministries such as raking leaves, shoveling snow or planting flowers for the elderly: cleaning house for a disabled person; visiting shut-ins and people in the hospital.

"Learn why you believe what you believe."

Celebrate holidays and special days by doing something for others. People in nursing homes appreciate your love and attention. Call the activities director or the head nurse and ask to do a program for Valentine's, Easter, Christmas or any season. In the program, sing songs the residents know, share familiar passages of the Bible with the residents and pray. Instead of assembling the residents together for the program, go to them. Carol the special songs or traditional hymns in the hall and in their rooms. Give something to each resident, such as a flower or a Bible verse printed in bold, dark letters on a piece of colored paper. Always take plenty of time to give the residents love, hugs, personal prayer and other personal attention.

Christian groups can shine in other ways. Support a missions project or a local family in need. Ten people contributing \$1.50 a month can sponsor a needy child. Ten people giving \$5 a month can supply several bags of groceries.

Investigate and support financially, or prayerfully, other ministries, such as Bible translation, groups that minister to drug addicts, and those that reach behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains.

You can also work and minister in events and programs not associated with a Christian group. For example, check into fitness, mental health, nutrition, the American Cancer Society, or the American Heart Association programs. Get involved in community programs for children. Participate in teen pregnancy centers, crisis intervention centers, peer counseling, anti-alcohol and drug abuse programs.

When planning ministry and fellowship, involve as many students as possible. In large groups, divide into committees to plan projects. In small groups, everyone has a sense of group ownership, and creativity and talents can surface. Whatever the group size, divide the responsibilities so that one person won't be saddled with all the work. An individual with a direct role in formulating plans and directing an activity feels more a part of the group.

A Christian club on your campus may not be easy. No activity you try will fall in place without effort. Whatever you do requires perseverance, patience, prayer and teamwork.

But God has given you the fire. Feed and fan those flames. Make them into a bonfire for Christ! \square

HAT'S THE MATTER, Dave?
Dave jolted. "When

did you come in?"

"Come on! I thought it was strange when I didn't hear your radio blaring, but it isn't even turned on. I've never seen you studying in silence before. What's wrong?"

"Oh, it's nothing," Dave replied, staring at his open book.

"Let's talk about it."

"Well, it's this science project. I'm supposed to write about some aspect of evolution, like the origin of the universe or how man developed from lower animals."

"And what do you intend to write?"

"I don't know, Dad. We know the Bible is true—that man was created, not evolved. But if I write that, I'll get an F."

"Then let's come up with a different solution, Dave."

"But what? I can't think of a way out."

"Well, Son, Proverbs 21:30 says, 'There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord.' If the Bible is true, all the evidence against it must be faulty. Why don't you raise questions about evolution? You'll be on the subject, and

you won't even need to quote the Bible."

"Yeah, that sounds good. But, Dad. There's so much evidence that's given for evolution."

"There are a lot of facts, Dave, but they're all misread by the evolutionists. They're misinterpreted. The evidence is really destitute."

"Destitute! Hey, that's what I'll use for my title. 'The Destitution of Evolution.'"

"OK, Dave. Go to it. Let me know if you have a problem. By the way, I have a few books written by scientists who believe in Creation science. You can borrow them for your research."

Dave's father went to the family room and returned in a few minutes with some books, which he placed on Dave's desk.

"Here. These should be of some help to you."

Dave began comparing his science textbook with the books written by Creation scientists. After a few minutes he began to write:

Many scientists believe that our solar system began with a cloud of gas swirling in a huge circle without the assistance of a Creator. But two questions come to mind: Where did the gas come from? And how did the gas get moving in the first place?

So far, so good, he thought. Evolution can't even get off the ground. Returning to his science textbook, he continued reading about the different planets in the solar system.

When he got to the description of Venus, Dave stopped abruptly. "Dad!" he called out. "Can you come here a minute?"

When his father entered the room, Dave said excitedly, "You know, the evolutionists say that the planets were formed while the gas cooled off while spinning around the sun."

"Yes. That's what they claim."

"Well, then, shouldn't all the planets rotate in the same direction?"

"They should, if the theory works."

"Well, listen to this: 'Venus moves in odd ways. Its rotation is retrograde, or backward.'"

"That doesn't help the theory much, does it? Does your textbook say anything about Neptune's moons?"

"Just a minute." Dave began to turn a few pages. "Oh, yes. Here it is. 'Neptune's puzzling moons don't act like any other planet's. Triton, a giant moon,

RUSSELL J. ASVITT

EVOLUTION

"You'll find that the whole theory of evolution breaks down by raising more questions than it answers."

takes less than six days to circle Neptune—backwards.' Hey, that's neat."

"Keep on with your study. You'll find that the whole theory of evolution breaks down by raising more questions than it answers."

As Dave continued his study, he made notes on the theory of evolution and some of the problems it raises:

The age of rocks can be determined by the age of the fossils found in it.

How can we know the age of the fossils?

The age of the fossils can be determined by the age of the rocks in which they are found.

Someone's gotta be kidding. Who knows the age of the rocks.

Speech must also have evolved slowly, as well as physical characteristics.

Human speech is absolutely distinctive from animal communications. The most highly structured and complex languages

have been found among the most backward and primitive tribes.

Evolution should show that the number of chromosomes would be greater in more complex organisms.

Algae has 48 chromosomes, the same as man. A horse has 60, and a crayfish has 208.

The giraffe's long neck slowly evolved so it could reach the high branches.

There has never been found a fossil giraffe with a short neck.

Dave was going over his notes later that evening, when his father entered the room.

"How's it going, Dave?"

"It's coming along fine. But I still can't understand why educated people would believe that we were descended from lower forms of life."

"Well, Dave, God's Word has the reason for it. Hand me your Bible."

"Listen to this in Romans 1:21, 22: 'Because that, when

they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.' You see, by denying God in Creation, they can never come to the knowledge of the truth."

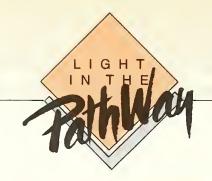
"But, Dad, why are there Christians who believe in evolution?"

"It's only because they have not thought it through. Our best reason for accepting the Genesis account of Creation is that Jesus accepted it."

"That's right! And He said somewhere that in the beginning He made them male and female, not as an amoeba."

"Right! And who should know better than Jesus? Colossians 1:16 says that 'by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible.'"

"Well, that proves it for me. I only hope I can convince my teacher." \square



Color Your World

LIFE IS A CANVAS; you and I are artists. We paint because it is our destiny, not because we have a choice. The finished product can be anything from a masterpiece to a mess.

God has given each of us a set of brushes. With them we combine the pigments of every-day experiences on the palette of individual personality to produce a rainbow of results. We do not choose or determine everything that happens to us. We experience many things we have no control over. Yet we do determine how we react and what we do with life.

The powerful mixture of personality and experience helps us create hues, tones, tints and shades that give shape and meaning to the larger portrait of our existence.

In our more optimistic moments we draw the outlines with bold strokes. In other, more tentative times we use a careful, feathery touch. Then we fill it all in with color.

And because we are artists, commissioned by God, we can make a difference in our world.

MARCUS V. HAND

We can color our world with love. Here's how:

- 1. Believe that God really loves you. A man in the Bible said, I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels won't, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God's love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, or where we arehigh above the sky, or in the deepest ocean—nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us (Romans 8:38, 39, LB).
- 2. Make a conscious decision to give Jesus Christ first place in your life. Love is a choice you make, not an emotion you feel. As God chose to love us and send His Son, so we must choose to love God

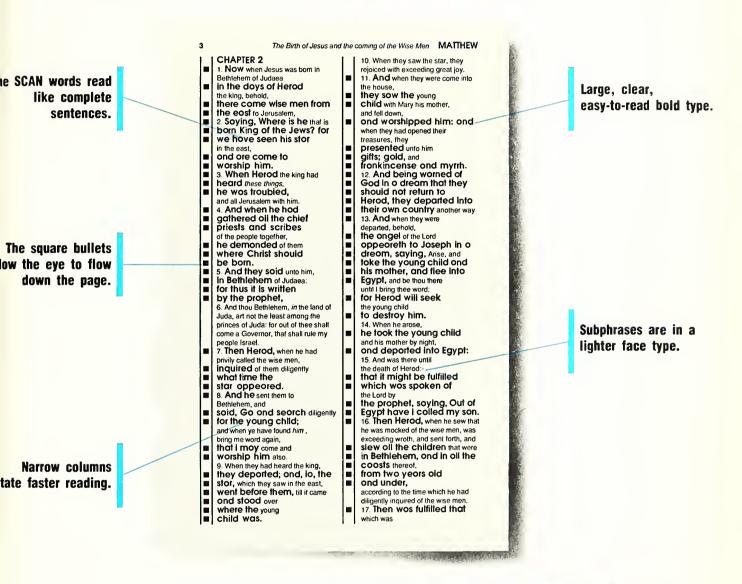
and make Jesus Lord. Love's emotions follow love's choices.

- 3. Unleash God's love in you by growing spiritually. Your walk with God is more than a one-time experience at the altar. Walk with Him daily, asking God to help you understand what he wants you to do, asking him to make you wise about spiritual things; and asking that the way you live will always please the Lord and honor him, so that you will always be doing good, kind things for others, while all the time you are learning to know God better and better (Colossians 1:9, 10, LB).
- 4. Seek for and find your place in the church's plan to fulfill the Great Commission. Jesus said, Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19, 20, NIV).

The glow the world begins to take on as you do these things will come from love—God's love and yours.

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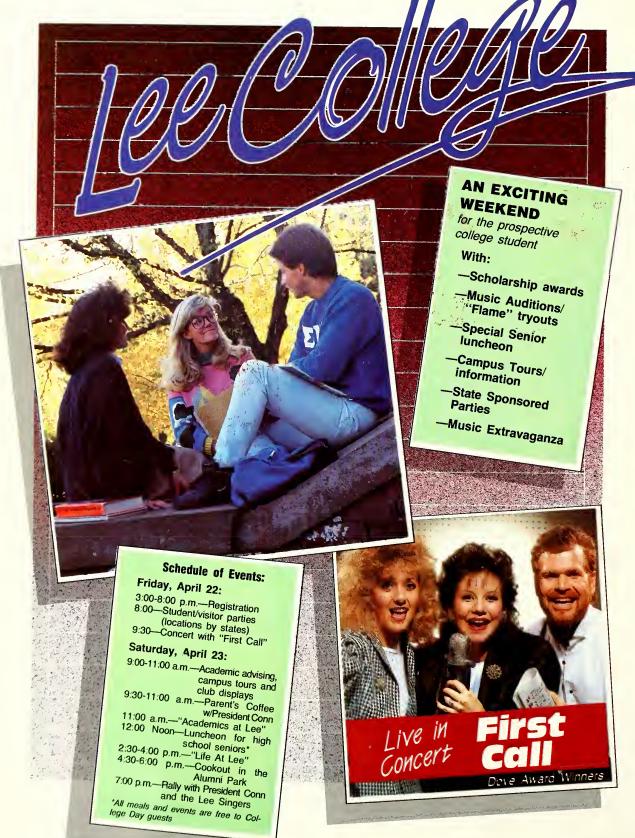
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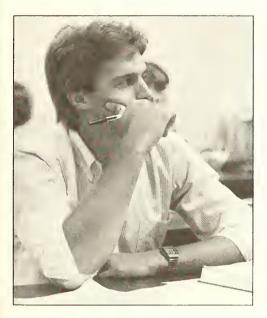
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APRIL 1988

Personal growth is the general theme that ties together articles on problems and potentials at school, parent relationships, your walk with God, what you wear and handling the humdrum things of life. Discover from our writers how you can become a better you.



Mid-Term Blues p. 8



Clothes Talk p. 22

VOLUME 59, NO. 4

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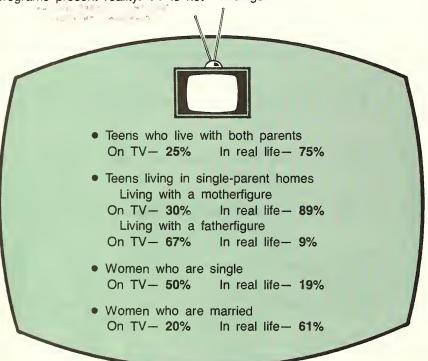
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WORKING WOMEN 2 1 2 2 2 3 3 4 5

THE NATIONAL Commission on Working Women recently conducted a study to gauge the way television programs present reality. TV is not

very "real," according to the study reported in the *Philadelphia Enquirer* (Nov. 26). Here are some findings:



The conclusion is that the "wonderful world of TV" does not mirror our times and culture, as is often stated. Unusual, even unacceptable,

lifestyles are promoted out of proportion to their frequency in society. \square

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

THE MOUNT PARAN Christian School, a ministry of the Mount Paran Church of God, is currently seeking a qualified school principal for the 1988-89 school year. This person must have a master's degree in Educational Administration with experience in public or Christian education. Mount Paran Christian

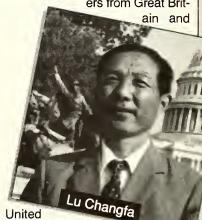
tian School has 600 students in kindergarten through high school and is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Resumes may be sent to Search Committee, Mount Paran Christian School, 1700 Allgood Road, Marietta, GA 30062.

Chinese Professors at Lee College

CHINESE STUDENTS can't date in high school, according to three English professors from the Foreign Language Department of China's Henan University who are attending Lee College.

The three arrived at Lee in May 1987 to learn more about American culture and to improve their English. Lu Changfa has taught in China for 25 years, Zhai Shizhao has taught for 17 years, and Hu Jihuan has taught for 10 years. They teach classes at Lee on Chinese culture, language and literature. They also speak at local schools. While at Lee the teachers are taking literature, psychology and computer classes.

The Chinese professors say that contact with foreign teachers from Great Brit-

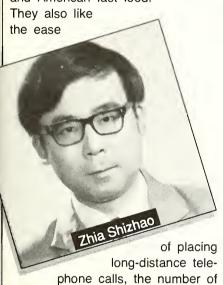


States helped prepare them fcr their stay. They met Lee College professors Murl and Carolyn Dirksen in 1984-85.

On holidays, such as the Chinese New Year, Chinese families gather and give the children presents and money. The visiting professors especially miss their families during these times. Mr. Lu and his wife have a son and daughter of college age. Mr. Zhai and his wife care for their 10-year-old daughter and his 70-vear-old mother. Mrs. Hu and her husband have a seven-vear-old son.

Chinese families are traditionally large, tightly knit units. Children care for their parents. The visiting teachers are surprised that many Americans place elderly parents in nursing homes and rarely visit them.

The personable instructors miss Chinese food but they enjoy pizza and American fast food.



private cars and the highway system. To make a long-distance call in China, one must go to the post office, fill out a form and then wait from 20 to 60 minutes for an operator to place the call.

In America, transportation is easier than in China, they say. The Chinese don't have paved highways in mountainous regions. The few private cars share the roads with buses, tractors, horse carts and bicycles. Most Chinese travel on bicycles.

The professors also enjoy American game shows such as Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy, Password and Scrabble, although they like Chinese television better. This is because



their television has no sex and violence and shows more educational programs.

The teachers note that American students are motivated by grades and credit, prefer multiple-choice tests, and often have difficulty writing and expressing themselves. Students at Lee impress the teachers with their good behavior and diligent study.

Generally, students in China are more eager to learn than American students, they say. At Henan University, an institution of 8,000 students, teachers don't work as hard as Lee's teachers and don't have as much responsibility in their departments.

Because educators and families want Chinese teens to focus their energy on studying, they can't date in high school. Students who survive the severe competition for university admission attend China's universities free. All university students are under 25 years of age. They don't work while attending college and can't marry until after graduation.

The Chinese professors like the American idea of attending college while married.

Mr. Lu, Mr. Zhai and Mrs. Hu will return to China next month and teach graduate classes in English at Henan University.

-Tami Frazier

Teen Problems

WHAT ARE the things that bother you most? According to Gallup Youth Survey, the top nine problems that concern all teenagers are

- Drug abuse
- Alcohol abuse
- Teenage pregnancy
- Peer pressure
- AIDS
- Getting along with parents
- Lack of a job
- Teenage suicide.

Teen Decisions

DR. MARK A. LAMPORT, assistant professor at Gordon College. led a team of researchers in trying to find out how the Bible affects personal decision making. Some 80 percent of the 223 teenagers surveved say they are Christians.

- Does the Bible give principles for making tough decisions? Yes-80 percent No-11 percent Not sure-9 percent
- Do biblical guidelines concerning sex apply today? Yes-62 percent

No-19 percent

Not sure-19 percent □







GREG BAIRD, minister of youth at the Princeton Pike Church of God in Hamilton, Ohio, asked some members of his youth group, "How do you

study and prepare for a test at school?" They attend junior high, high school and college. Here is what they said:



I review all of the vocabulary lists, then answer all the questions at the end of the chapters.

Aaron Davis Age 14



I read all my notes, memorize them and try to understand the material. Then I ask God to help me and freshen my mind, to bring the information back.

Teresa Able Age 21

I read what I've got to read, and it goes through my brain. Then I understand everything, and I get it the way I want to get it. That's how I've become a B student—just reading and understanding what I've read.

Brian Coffey Age 14

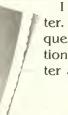


When I study for a test I skim, through the chapters, get all the important information out, sometimes participate in a study group, look through all my notes and pray real hard just before the test.

Debbie Byington Age 23 First, I review the questions at the end of the chapter, answer them, then go back and reread the chapter.

Tony Thompson Age 16





I start by rereading the chapter. Then I go over the review questions. After the review questions, I skim through the chapter again. Then I'm done.

Kirk Powell Age 15 When I study for a test, I look over my notes and the vocabulary and read the chapters over again.

> Ella Palacha Age 16





Response to Lyn (March, 1988, page 7) has been heavy. Read more next month.

Dear Lyn,

Many teenage girls feel, like you, that the guy with the blondest hair, bluest eyes and biggest muscles would somehow be the "answer to all problems." The sad truth is, a guy with only these qualities going for him would probably be just the beginning of problems. "The Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). I have learned to apply this scripture to any date, and believe me, my relationship with God and others has been much richer. Lyn, I will pray that you and those like you will begin to see others, starting with the inside and looking out. Trv it once. You will feel better about yourself and the other person.

-Jamie McCall Belleville, MI Age 19

You must not like yourself if you would do anything a guy asked. God created you and you are special because of it. He makes no mistakes. Make guys come up to your standards; don't let them bring you down to their level. Have some self-respect. After all, Jesus loved you so much He died for you.

-Tiffany Ray Fort Lauderdale, FL Age 16

THOSE MIDTERM PAPER BALLS WHIZ over your head as you count down the last minutes of your school day. It's the middle of the semester, and you would rather be anywhere than school-mining in Siberia, cleaning your room-anything to get out of cracking a book. June and summer vacation seem farther away than Christmas. Where do you get the energy to do your homework today and to survive the rest of the year? Why should you even tackle the stack of books on your desk? In these mid-semester blues, what can you do to motivate yourself and finish the year? In order to motivate yourself, examine your attitude toward school and schoolwork. Then look to Christ, to yourself, to your family and friends, and to your future to give you reasons to discipline yourself and spend your energy concentrating in class and doing homework. When one of these motivation sources doesn't seem important, you'll have the others to support you. TAMI FRAZIER

LIGHTED PATHWAY / 88

Your attitude toward school and work directly influences your academic performance. When your attitude toward school is positive, you find it easier to motivate vourself. Make a list of what you like about learning and school (Yes, there are some!) and their positive benefits. Make another list of things you dislike about school and learning. When you're having difficulty mustering a positive attitude, look at the lists. Do the negatives really outweigh the positives, or are you thinking about skipping classes and ignoring homework because you are experiencing mid-semester blues? If you are a senior, maybe it's "senior slump."

What are your motivations for attending classes, doing homework and studying? One motivation for striving for academic success is to please Christ. "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31, *NIV*). Wanting to please God gives you the drive to do your work.

In order to always do your best, focus your life on Christ. Even if your schedule is hectic and you feel imprisoned by walls of books, make a time for prayer and Bible reading. By renewing yourself daily in Christ, you will have more power to discipline yourself to do the work you need to do. By focusing on Christ and walking in the Spirit, you can face your work with a positive attitude. Knowing you are studying

to please Christ enables you to draw from His power.

Your achievements now witness for Christ. In addition, current academic achievements in-

Where do you
get the
energy to do
your homework
today and
survive the rest
of the year?

fluence your future witness. This includes attending college, obtaining recommendations from teachers, winning scholarships, and so forth.

Look inside yourself for inner motivation. Do your school work well for the self-satisfaction it yields. Pat yourself on the back for achieving something that is difficult to do, whether it's paying attention during the last 10 minutes of English or algebra, completing a research paper or reading the real Shakespeare instead of Cliff's notes.

Look to your future for motivation. Do your future goals include college, vocational schools, scholarships or other goals that will require or benefit from a good GPA? Put your energy into studying now so you won't have regrets later. A little extra effort today could make the difference between an A and a B, passing and failing, or be-

ing eligible and being ineligible to play sports.

Also, by learning to discipline yourself and by establishing good study habits now, you may prevent future struggles in your education. In addition, if you prove yourself to be a steady, enthusiastic and energetic worker, teachers will be able to write shining recommendations for you when you need them.

Another motivation source for studying is to please the people who value you—family, friends and teachers. Everyone, especially a parent, likes to be associated with students who are successful and are high achievers. Even if you don't make the honor roll or if you barely pass, working steadily to the best of your ability makes the people around you proud.

What can you do before, during and after class to improve your academic performance?

Go to class prepared. Before the class, read the assigned pages or try to work sample problems. If you have an idea beforehand of what is going to be taught and what you don't understand, you'll be able to ask questions and understand the lecture more completely. If you see you don't understand how to do a problem, you'll know to pay attention closely class. Doing homework shows you your weaknesses and lays the groundwork for what you'll be taught.

In the classroom, focus your attention on your teacher. Concentrate on the teacher's face,

especially on the eyes and mouth. If you're looking at the speaker, your mind will wander less easily.

Don't try to write down each word, but take notes constantly. Taking notes makes you pay attention. While taking notes, underline if the speaker emphasizes a point-you learn through repetition. Recording detailed notes in class saves your looking up facts after class. Listen and summarize in your own words. Note key words and phrases. Create symbols and abbreviations-but don't forget what they mean.

Symbols for Note-taking: = Man, person or peo- \rightarrow = yields or results in = big or increases = small or decreases = negatives = greater than

If a point is unclear or if you miss information, ask the teacher to clarify or repeat. Don't be afraid to ask a question when you don't understand, even if you think your question

= less than



Don't try to memorize three chemistry chapters or 200 years of U.S. history in one night.

is stupid. Other students probably have the same question. Besides, your question indicates to the teacher you're interested and are paying attention.

While studying, don't make unreasonable demands on yourself. Don't try to memorize three chemistry chapters or 200 years of U.S. history in one night. Review your notes and the material you covered in each class each day. Fill in the notes you missed. Look at your science and math before you forget the processes you learned. After reading through your notes once, summarize without peeking and outline in your head what you learned and did in each class. When you have a large amount of information to learn or a large project or paper to do, complete a little each day.

Make a list of homework assignments. Include sections of work on large projects or papers. As you complete small chunks of large projects, check them off. Seeing what you've accomplished encourages you; give yourself a pat on the back for work done. Reward yourself or play basketball.

Post outlines or lists, dates or definitions where you can glance over them. Repeat them in your mind as you comb your hair, brush your teeth or eat breakfast.

Three . . . two . . . one . . . BUZZ. The bell rings and you head out the classroom door. The decision is yours: Where will your books spend the nightuncracked on your locker shelf or wide open on your desk?

Preparation helps cure those midterm blues.

ID YOU HEAR ABOUT the salesman who went to Africa and soon called his manufacturer, "I want to come home. Nobody wears shoes in this part of Africa"? Another salesman was sent, and he began sending order after order. His happy report: "Everybody here needs shoes!"

Imagine your school instead of Africa. The story might go something like this:

Did you hear about the Christian teen who told his pastor, "I want to change schools. Nobody knows Jesus Christ in this school"? Another teen—a happy, witnessing one—told his pastor, "Everyone here needs Jesus."

A youth group I know caught this vision for the lost in school and began doing something about it. They invited five school friends to a Christian concert, and all five gave their hearts to the Lord. They asked another friend to ride with a carload of them to an amusement park three hours away. By the time they had arrived, the friend had prayed the sinner's prayer. Another unsaved friend was won to the Lord in home economics. and another was led to Christ over the telephone.

Within a month a small handful had won 13 to the Lord. Now they are planning a large youth crusade. They are turned on to opportunities.

Schools today are referred to as "jungles," "zoos" and "the devil's playground." But they represent hurts and needs. As a Pentecostal teenager you have the message of hope and love that is essential to the lives of your friends at school. The problem is that, at times, we overlook the opportunities.

John 4:27 says, And upon

this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman. What was so unusual about Jesus' sharing words of life with an individual? He had just finished doing that in Chapter 3. And yet the disciples were amazed! Let's look at three lessons from this story that may prove to be helpful in recognizing opportunities for sharing Jesus.

1. Be open to opportunities, great and small, at every moment. Jesus and His disciples had just concluded an evangelistic crusade in Judaea. "Jesus was winning and baptizing more disciples than John" (John 4:1). This was their first big crusade. Now the disciples did not expect Jesus to spend so much time with only one person.

Our Pentecostal services, activities and fellowship can, at times, limit our vision for those outside the Christian circle. It's easier to share an exciting message of Christ when you have a large group of Christian friends to support you. But what about those one-on-one opportunities in enemy territory—the school hallway?

2. Be open to God's creativeness; don't try to predetermine your opportunities. From Judaea, Jesus and His dis-

ciples set a course for Galilee. To reach their destination, they had a choice of two routes: the longer, more popular route through Peraea or the shorter route leading through Samaria (v. 4). This led to Jesus' encounter with the undesirable Samaritan woman.

Can you think of undesirables in your school, kids you've never thought of sharing Christ with? They could be likely candidates for receiving a message of hope. Sometimes we have not witnessed to even our friends at school because we just have not thought of their needing the message.

3. Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. He will fill your openness and lead you down prepared paths. Look at verses 8 and 31. It was dinnertime, and the disciples couldn't wait to jump into those broiled-fish-on-rye sandwiches. Perhaps their stomachs were speaking louder than their hearts.

The greatest deterrence to sharing Jesus Christ may be our own satisfactions, our securities or our desires that overlook the needs of others. It is easier not to share if something can cause ridicule. It is also easy to become too busy with our own entertainments.

NATHAN BOEHM



Dear Mom and Dad, I got really aggravated in class the other day. Some thoughtless, spoiled got really aggravated in class the owner day, come inoughtless, spoil

in class the owner day, come inoughtless, spoil

incouldn't stand her parents"

incouldn't stand her parents"

incouldn't stand her running

incouldn't stand her parents" brat was mouthing off about now she "contant stand her." It really bothered me. I know I because "they dight understand her." It really bothered and arrogant about because I have a standard to the standard because iney agant understood, but was I obnoxious and arrogant about it?

Sometimes I'm Probably too sensitive about all this. I spent a few years feeling downright angry that you both had to leave me when I was a feeling downright angry that you both had for my hasn't naced freeling Now the same hist my need for my hasn't naced freeling teering nowaright angry that you come not reave me when I was ed.

The sample is gone, but my need for you hasn't passed.

The sample is gone, but my need for you hasn't passed.

The sample is gone, but my need for you hasn't passed.

The sample is gone, but my need for you hasn't passed.

The sample is gone, but my need for you hasn't passed.

The sample is gone, but my need for you hasn't passed. reenager. Now, the anger is gone, but my need for you nash passed.

Trying to fathorn my way through these early 20's is prestrictions.

Those are There are so many times I could use your advice and counsel. Sometimes I'm trying to be mature, but who should be my models? don't do I wish I could just talk to you both for a while. there are public figures and celebrities, but who is there on a day-to-day there are public rigures and celebrilles, pur who is where on a vay-round to make you both had so many basis for me? I wish you were here because you both had so many The gift I do have however, is all you shared with me while I

The gift I do have however, is all you shared with me while I

The gift I do have however, is all you shared with me while I had you. I have those values and that wisdom to draw on when I'm not I have those values and that wisdom to that the Crith in and you some things the plant. not seeing things too clearly. I your efforts were not wasted on to seeing have still endures. taught me to have still endures. I frustrated you.

taught me to have still endures frustrated you.

me, even wonderful qualities. me, even though I'm sure I often finistrated you. I despise to hear young people bad-mouthing their parents.

I despise to hear young people bad-mouthing smund

I despise to hear young people bad-mouthing smun They don't know what it's like to not have them around. I miss your daughter

CHRISTINE MORIARTY

Bible Study

SECOND COMING



JESUS IS COMING SOON!

JESUS IS COMING SOON.

"We believe in the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air." So begins the 13th item in our Declaration of Faith.

The second coming of Jesus is a solid Bible doctrine.

- His second coming is prophesied more than 300 times in the New Testament.
- For every time His first coming is mentioned once, His second coming is mentioned eight times.

- Both 1 and 2 Thessalonians were written on this important subject.
- Entire chapters are devoted to it (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21).
- Jesus said He would come again (John 14:1-6).
- Angels prophesied His second coming (Acts 1:11).

Dr. Ray H. Hughes, an eminent church leader, said, "The next thing in God's program that is to take place is the transformation of the saints, the resurrection of the dead in Christ

and the translation of the church at which time the living saints will be changed, the dead saints will be resurrected, and all will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. I know that to the world this sounds fantastic, but some morning, evening or midnight Christ is going to appear, and His church will disappear from this world without notice or announcement."

The glorious appearing of our Savior is called a "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13).

Let's look at some Bible teaching on this important doctrine.

RESURR

LOOK IN THE WORD—1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Verse 13. Have you ever lost a close friend or	Verse 16. Discuss the three sounds which will accompany the Lord's return:
tive through death? Talk about your feelings.	 The shout of command. "The Lord himself shouts the quickening word, which com- mands a ready and obedient response" (F.F. Bruce).
	"The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live" (John 5:25, NIV).
	The voice of an archangel. Angelic hosts will share in the victory shout when Jesus Christ returns.
Verse 14. Who will Jesus bring with Him when He comes?	3. The trumpet of God. "The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:52, NKJV).
Verse 14. Our confidence that we will one day see our loved ones who have died in Christ is based on what?	Verses 16, 17. Why do you think the dead in Christ will rise first?
Verse 15. Some Christians will be alive when Jesus returns. What advantage will they have over those who have died in Christ?	Verse 17. This describes what is commonly referred to as "the Rapture." A Bible scholar, Dr. Kenneth Wuest, describes the various meanings of the Greek verb translated "caught up." Apply each of them to the coming of Christ:
	To catch away speedily. (See Acts 8:39). To seize by force. (See John 6:15). To claim for one's own self. To move to a new place. (See John 14:1-6). To rescue from danger. (Acts 23:10).

BibleStudy



Verse 17. All the saints will meet together in the air to be forever with the Lord. We want to see Jesus first, of course. List some others you would like to talk to.

Two individuals from the Bible:

- •
- _

Two individuals from more modern times:

- •
- •

Verse 17. What does the phrase "We shall always be with the Lord" mean to you?

Verse 18. Share with a friend the comfort you get from the hope of Christ's return.

BibleStudy

HOW DO WE know that Jesus is coming soon? Because in the Bible Jesus mentions certain signs that would precede His coming. "Look up and rejoice when these signs begin to happen, because redemption and rapture is near" (Luke 21:28, paraphrased by Wilkerson). Not only have all these signs of His return begun; nearly all have been fulfilled.

1 Prosperity sign

"As things were in Noah's days, so will they be when the Son of Man comes" (Matthew 24:37, NEB).

They were drunkards and gluttons. They were marrying and divorcing. They were building and trading. They were absorbed with fleshly desires and fashion trends.

2 Peace sign

"When men are saying 'Peace and security,' catastrophe will sweep down upon them" (1 Thessalonians 5:3, *Ph.*).

3 Violence sign

"Above all he will punish those who follow their abominable lusts. They flout authority; reckless and headstrong, they are not afraid to insult celestial beings" (2 Peter 2:10, NEB).

We are warned to be aware of a time when men will despise government, riot, and speak evil of those in authority. Nations will rise against nations. Crime will be on the upswing. Wars and the possibility of war will increase.

4 Earth sign

And great earthquakes shall

be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven" (Luke 21:11).

Since the 14th century there has been a great yearly increase in recorded major quakes. Nearly one-half of the world goes to bed hungry every night. Different kinds of pestilences are plaguing the earth. Pollution threatens to kill man. The population explosion threatens the world's balance. In the heavens

6 Israel sign

"And Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24). (Also read lsaiah 35:1 and Ezekiel 36:16-18.)

God promised that the Jews would be returned to their homeland, that the land would be cultivated and produce plenty, that Jerusalem would be recaptured and that the Temple would be rebuilt for a place to worship.

7 Religious sign

"The Spirit says expressly that in after times some will desert from the faith and give their minds to subversive doctrines inspired by devils" (1 Timothy 4:1, NEB).

"And the gospel must first be published

among all nations" (Mark 13:10).

In this decade we have witnessed spiritual apostasy and spiritual fervor. On the one hand the Bible is being denounced; churches are looked down upon; the gospel is only a social message; devil worship is gaining momentum. On the other hand, however, witnessing is increasing; television and printing presses send the gospel all over the world; the gospel is being shared on the street.

All of these signs indicate that Jesus is coming. \square

-from *I Didn't Know That*. For a copy of this book, call 1-800-553-8506 (in Tennessee, 1-800-523-4849). \$3.95.

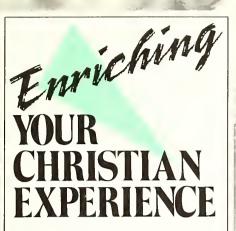


man has walked on the moon and plans additional trips into the universe.

5 Moral sign

"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come" (1 Timothy 3:1,NKJV).

Jesus' coming will occur during a period of gross immorality. He will come during a period of selfishness, greed and parental breakdown. Homosexuality, lesbianism and sex perversion will be on the increase. All of these projections describe our day. Today many advocate "situational ethics." They believe that there is no right and wrong. Everything is determined by the situation.



KATRINA SIMS

Your walk with God can be exciting and alive. Here are some tips on regaining the momentum. . . .

IS YOUR CHRISTIAN walk getting a little humdrum? Make some changes; try some new ideas.

Everyone knows that a "good Christian" reads his Bible, prays, goes to church and witnesses. No matter how good your intentions are, though, sometimes monotony sets in. The Christian life doesn't have to be dull, however. You can add life to your Christian walk. Try these ideas:

Plan a change of scenery. When you have a day free, take your Bible and a notebook and go somewhere outdoors alone. Go to a park, to a river or lake, or to the woods. Spend some time in prayer. Don't rush. Pray about your goals, your future, your friendship—anything that concerns you.

Read your Bible. Reread some of the stories you learned

as a child. Look up favorite passages. Relearn verses you had memorized, or learn some new ones. Consider Psalm 139:7-12 and 1 Chronicles 16:23-27.

Sing some hymns. Write in a notebook your reaction to your time with God. Record any decisions made. Linda, a freshman, tried this. "I felt so much closer to God. At home I'm always in a hurry because there's always something to do. Being away from everything gave me a chance to think about God, not what I had to do next."

Have eight or 10 other Christians over for a praise party. Ask each one to bring his or her favorite Christian tape or record. Provide snacks to eat while you listen. Have a friend with musical ability bring his guitar so the group can sing their favorite songs and hymns. Keep the atmosphere positive. Share special answers to prayer.

Start a weekly Bible study. Pathway Press has several series of Bible study books with leader's manuals. Some studies are centered about a single book of the Bible; others are doctrinal. Still others focus on Christian living. Ask a spiritually mature person to lead the study. If you don't know many Christian teens, find one other Christian and do a Bible study together.

David was a junior in high school when he felt that his spiritual life was at a standstill. He confided to another junior who was known for his Christian testimony. The two of them started going to school 15 minutes early on Tuesdays and Fridays

for Bible study and a time of prayer.

Deb attended a public high school where she didn't know any other Christians. She began witnessing to Gail, the girl who sat next to her in typing class. Gail began going to church with Deb and before long accepted

No matter how good your intentions are. sometimes monotony sets in.

Christ. Deb and Gail became close friends. They started studying the Bible together and soon led two more girls to the Lord.

Start a ministry. It can be combined with your Bible study. Ask your pastor for the names of church members in nursing homes and hospitals. Get the names of recent visitors to your church and visit them. If your group has musical ability, you can get permission from the head of the nursing home or the activities director to have a short weekly concert or singalong.

One group of Christian students decided to visit a nursing home for a Christian service project. Steve performed entertaining tricks with a Christian message. Four members of the group who also played in the band formed a quartet. The class president presented a short message. The group was so well received they were asked to return. Before long, they were going to three nursing homes a month and the children's wing of the hospital. Many groups visit near the holidays, but very few visit regularly throughout the year.

Ask your pastor for jobs around the church that need to be done. Perhaps the nursery needs painting or cleaning. The pews might need cleaning: the hymnbooks may need repairing. Donate some of your time to help.

Enrich your quiet time. Change your routine. If you usually spend five minutes reading a devotional book and another five minutes praying, add some variety. Start by singing a hymn or reading a scriptural poem or psalm. Study the life of a Bible character like David (1 Samuel) or Paul (Acts 9-28).

Spend a few minutes reading a missionary biography. Write a letter to God. Listen to a tape of a previous church service or a series by a well-known minister or teacher.

These are but a few ideas: there are many more. Ask your youth leader or your pastor for help. You can keep your Christian experience fresh and exciting. \square

P·R·A·Y·E·R THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HEALING

Stephanie, 18, is healed through prayer. . . .

BY TOMMY PROPES

HEN TEENS PRAY fervently, it has an effect on God—it gets His attention!

Webster defines *prayer* as "an earnest request; supplication; an entreatment; an utterance of



praise." The Bible says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

From the dawn of Creation, when people prayed, God moved.

When Abel prayed, God accepted his sacrifice.

When Noah prayed, God spared his family from the destructive forces of the flood.

When Abraham prayed, God gave Isaac, the son of promise.

When Moses prayed, God parted the Red Sea.

When Joshua prayed, God crumbled the wall of Jericho.

When David prayed, God gave victory over Goliath.

When Job prayed, God gave restoration.

When Daniel prayed, God shut the lions' mouths.

When Joel prayed, God promised the last-day outpouring.

So you see, when people pray, God moves!

fter we discipline ourselves to learn to pray, prayer moves to the third level: delight.

JESUS' EXAMPLE IN PRAYER

At the beginning of Christ's ministry (Mark 1:35), in the middle of His ministry (Matthew 14:23) and at the end of His ministry (Luke 22:39, 40), He prayed. Even on the Cross, as He was dying, Jesus prayed (Luke 23:34, 46). Death, however, did not mark the end of His prayer ministry.

Jesus' ministry in heaven today is intercession. "He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

People ask, "Where can I find Jesus?" We find Him at the

same place the disciples found Him—the place of prayer. If we want to be like Jesus, we will develop our spirits into spirits of prayer. We will disciple ourselves to follow the Lord in a life of prayer.

THREE LEVELS OF PRAYER

Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit to enable us when we pray (Romans 8:26, 27). The Spirit leads us into three levels of prayer. First, the Holy Spirit births within us the *desire* to pray.

Second, the Holy Spirit moves us to a place of holy discipline. As we obey Him, desire matures within us. We begin to discipline ourselves and make times for prayer. The root word of *disciple* is *discipline*. The underlying idea of disciple is a disciplined follower of Jesus.

Jesus' life was a disciplined life of prayer, and the power of God flowed out of Him. To see the power of God move in our lives, we must continually renew our relationship with God through a consistent, daily prayer life.

After we discipline ourselves to learn to pray, prayer moves to the third level: delight. From desire to discipline to delight. We delight to do His will. We rejoice in His presence, His power, His provision.

TEEN TESTIMONY OF PRAYER AND HEALING



Stephanie Wiggins, 18, is a member of the congregation I pastor, the Live Oak Church of God in Hinesville, Ga. This is her testimony:

In July 1985, I discovered I couldn't see out of my right eye. I went to the doctor, and he said I was blind in that eye. I began to pray, and on Sunday night my church prayed for me. God began healing me that night, and within two weeks my eyesight came back. Before I went blind in that eye, my eyesight was 20/20; after God healed me, my vision tested 20/15. God not only healed my vision, He made it better than

it was before!

In June 1987, I was diagnosed as having muscular dustrophy. My pastor and the elders of my church prayed, and God healed me again. I went to the doctor a few weeks later, and she could find nothing wrong with me. I told her I was fine. She still wanted to see me again, however. In September 1987, she examined me again. I told her God had healed me and I was fine. Finally, the doctor told me it wasn't necessary to come back again; there was nothing wrong with me!

Praise God for the power of prayer! □

M AFRAID WE DON'T give the devil the credit that's due him. We tend to think of him in the same realm as Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. We relegate him to mythology. And that's really the way he likes it, because he prefers to operate as a secret agent.

What is Secret Agent No. 1 up to these days? Well, for one thing, he's working harder than ever to undermine the youth of the world. And as usual, he's subtle in his approach—if you want to use the word *sneaky*, it might fit even better.

A shrewd character, Secret Agent No. 1 has been using modern music to influence the minds of teenagers. Dr. J.V. Toohey of Arizona State University says, "Because of its wide circulation, rock music serves as an especially good line to young ideas. All kids listen to rock. This is 'their' music and probably the most disseminated and open expression of drugs and social commentary in existence."

As guys and girls listen to rock, they get the dangerous message that a person can find happiness through drugs and sex. What's not included in the message is that they'll also get a ilfe of utter misery and degradation.

Secret Agent No. 1 has been working a long time toward the overthrow of the United States because this nation has stood as a major deterrent to his program. He not only uses music and drugs to undermine young people, but he assaults minds through pornography, sex, profanity and violence. These things can be seen at movie

What is Secret Agent No. 1 up to these days?

GIVE THE DEVIL LARSON

theaters, on cable TV and through VCR rental cassettes. Anyone who takes this trash into his mind is allowing Satan to gain control of his life!

Many Christians believe the "Day of the Lord" is approaching fast. Our world is progressing to the place where "no man might buy or sell, save he that [has] the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Revelation 13:17). Then Secret Agent No. 1 will have full power over all the earth through his representative, the man of sin (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

How should we Christians react to these perilous times? The Bible says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he

may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith. . . . But the God of all grace . . . make you perfect . . . settle you" (1 Peter 5:8-10).

Jesus Christ sets people free and opens their eyes. Walking with Him, we can have true peace and joy without tragic aftermath. We can have heavenly experiences without Hades following. Christ makes us see the world through different eyes. The junk of the world becomes distasteful, and serving the Lord becomes our main aim. That's the last thing Secret Agent No. 1 wants, and he works hard against it.

Don't fall for his line.

Remember, "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Jesus, not Satan, is Lord!

CLOTHE

What you wear makes a statement. Clothi

t is said that "clothing makes the person." Although they do not really "make" a person, they do serve as a label. Outward apparel furnishes clues that let others know what you are. They make an announcement.

A fashion expert said, "You dress the way you think, and you act the way you dress."

In our world great emphasis is placed on outward appearance. Styles and fads change continually. Much of the emphasis in current styles come from television, fashion magazines and media personalities. It is very much in vogue to be genuine, not just a second-rate individual.

You don't have to be an echo or carbon copy of other people. Don't get caught in the "copycat" trap. Dare to express your own personality and identity. Carbon copies are mere shadows of the real thing.

You are a unique person with individual skin coloring, individual hair coloring and individual physical stature. Dare to be your own person. Wear clothes with a personal flare. Clothing can be discovered which will flatter your eyes . . . your hair . . . your skin . . . your individual size. Simplicity is still fashionable.

Attractive clothing makes a positive statement. Frumpy, out-



TAILK What Bay? Presses the real you!

landish, dowdy outfits send false signals. When current styles insist that "daring," "indecent" and "immodest" describe the latest trends, dare to stay in the middle of the fashion stream. Determine to follow a moderate course.

Always take Christ shopping with you. When you are in doubt about a selection, look in the mirror and ask yourself, "Would I want Christ to see me like this?" (see 1 Timothy 2:9). You are Christ's ambassador. Dress to please Him, not to get the attention of others. "Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31, NIV).

Your testimony is affected by your appearance. Avoid the extreme. Do not allow worldly influences to lure you into wearing the shortest . . . longest . . . slimmest . . . or fullest of any style. Refuse to be a fashion freak!

Refuse to be daring, indecent or immodest. "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight" (1 Peter 3:3, 4, NIV).

Conformity isn't all wrong. It

is understandable to want to appear "in style." You can dress stylishly and still not appear tasteless, vulgar, wild, unusual or farout. Do not dress in such a way that others will lose the view of the special creation you are.

On the other hand, never dress so "dated" that you look as if you stepped out of an antique store. Christ wants us to look our very best. Remember, we are representing Him! "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, NIV).

It matters to Him how you look. It should matter to you. Never dress in such a way that it brings offense or reproach on His name. The strongest statement we make should be the evidence of the lordship of Christ in our life. What you wear should never distract from the testimony of Him in your heart.

Clothing is important in the Scriptures. Since the fall of man in the garden, the statement of our clothing has been vital to our relationship with God. When Adam and Eve sinned, it became necessary to cover themselves as a badge of guilt. Their choice of covering in their de-

generate condition was not satisfactory to God. They clothed themselves with aprons of fig leaves. God himself clothed them with "coats of skins" (see Genesis 3:7, 21). The matter of clothing should be approached from the perspective of our relationship with God rather than mere identification with the fads and fashions of today's society.

We are instructed in Colossians 3:12 to "clothe . . . [ourselves] with compassion" (*NIV*). This scripture goes on to say that our clothing should be "kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." We are His chosen ones, and we must put forth every effort to live the godly life. This includes how we dress.

Everyone is affected by the current styles and fashions, and they are not all bad. But it is important to take the time to analyze the message we are presenting by the clothes we wear. A good rule to follow is this:

Do not wear anything that will call attention away from the fact that you are Christ's representative.

Make it a priority to let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you. When you make your clothing selections, simply pray this prayer, "Lord, help me to always represent You well, and help me to put on love, compassion, holiness and. . . ."



I DUMPED MY BOOKS on the kitchen table and headed to the refrigerator for an after-school snack.

"You got a letter from Cheryl today," Mom said as she walked into the kitchen. "I put it on your dresser."

I let out a whoop as I raced to my room. Cheryl had moved to Florida months before. Though we'd only been friends for a year, it was like we'd known each other forever. You get to know someone pretty well when you live in the same neighborhood, work on the school newspaper together and go to the same church youth group.

I always looked forward to hearing about Cheryl's life in Florida. Sure I missed her and wished she'd never moved, but that was something I couldn't change. Instead, we kept in touch through long letters. We filled each other in on school life, what was happening to friends, what we were learning in our quiet times—all kinds of things.

I picked up Cheryl's letter with its familiar scrawled handwriting and tore open the purple envelope. Instead of the usual "Hi, Teresa!" that she always used as a greeting, I read, "My dear friend in Christ."

What's gotten into her? I wondered as I continued to read the letter.

"This letter will bring you health and happiness beyond anything you can imagine. It contains a special blessing that can mean untold riches for you and your family if you follow its instructions carefully."

The letter went on for a couple more paragraphs detailing what had happened to people who had broken the chain in the past. It ended with these words: "This letter has traveled around the world five times and has brought only God's best to all who have safeguarded its journey. To receive its benefits, send five handwritten copies of this letter to your closest friends. Do not break the chain!!! If you do, bad times will come to you and those you love." The letter was signed, "Your friend in Christ, Cheryl."

I sat on my bed and reread the letter and its instructions. As I did, my first reaction was to tear up the pretty purple stationery and forget I'd ever received it. How can a letter bring me untold riches? I thought. Instead, I found myself putting the letter back in its envelope and laying it on my desk. I'll think about it later, I told myself and headed downstairs.

Yet I couldn't get the letter out of my mind. As I did my homework, worries plagued me. What if I don't answer the letter and something happens to someone in my family? Will I ever be able to forgive myself? How will I know I wasn't the cause? What if I do answer the letter? Does that mean I'm not trusting God to take care of us?

I was so quiet during dinner that my dad asked if I was sick. "No, I just have a lot on my mind," I told him.

"Cheryl's letter?" Mom asked. I glanced over at her, wondering if she'd read the letter. By her expression, I could tell she was only worried that it contained bad news. "Well, kind of," I replied. I wasn't ready to share the letter's strange contents with anyone yet.

After dinner, I got out the letter and read it again. My worries started all over. If I break the chain, am I stopping something wonderful from happening to our family? What will our blessings be? Would Cheryl have sent the letter if she didn't believe in its power? Still I couldn't bring myself to write the necessary five copies.

Before leaving for school the next day, I stuffed the letter into my purse. I'll stop at church after school and show it to David, my youth pastor, I told myself. He can tell me what he thinks.

All day I heard the crackling sound of the letter's pages as I reached in my purse for a pen or a tissue. "Worry, worry," it seemed to whisper.

Worry I did. Through English, American history, algebra, lunch . . . I couldn't get the possible consequences of not answering the letter out of my mind. If this letter had come from anyone but Cheryl, this decision would be a lot easier, I thought. Maybe she knows something I don't. By day's end, I was relieved that I'd decided to talk to David.

David read Cheryl's letter carefully, folded it, and put it back in the envelope. "What are you going to do?" he asked.

"That's what I was hoping you'd tell me," I said with a note of exasperation in my voice. "I'm not sure what to do."

"Well to me, your options are pretty clear," David said. "You can copy the letter and put someone else through what you've gone through for the past two days, or you can break the chain and trust God for the consequences."

"I know, but I just can't make a decision," I said. "I'm worried that breaking the chain. . . ."

"I think this letter has already bound you in different chains," David interrupted. "Scripture says in John 14:1 to trust in God and not let your heart be troubled. Do not let your hearts be troubled. You're so worried about this chain letter you've forgotten to trust that God will take care of you and your family."

David's words were true. I'd known from the beginning that trusting God was my only option, but I'd let the fact that the letter came from such a good friend cloud my judgment. Once I'd done that, worry had taken control of my life.

David held out the chain letter. I took it from him and stuffed it between the pages of my English book.

"I know you'll make the right decision," David said with a smile.

I was silent for a moment. "I've made my decision," I told him taking the letter back out of my book. "If this letter had come from anyone but Cheryl, I would have done this right away."

With that, I tore it in half and threw the pieces in the waste-basket next to his desk. "The only letter I'm writing is to Cheryl to let her know why I broke the chain."



Of Ruts and Routines

"I wouldn't be bored if my classes were more interesting."

"I live in the most boring town in the world."

"My friends always want to do the same old things."

"Nothing exciting ever happens to me."

"I never have any energy to do things. I want my life to be different, but it seems like nothing ever changes."

"Every day is the same. . . ."

HAVE YOU EVER heard any of these statements? Have you ever made any of them? What makes life sometimes seem so humdrum, so everyday?

A disease that feeds on itself is boredom. When you're listless and uninterested, you don't have the energy to do things. When you don't do things, it makes you feel listless and lose interest. Thus you create a vicious cycle. Boredom breeds more boredom.

Boredom comes from being in a rut. Routines are different from ruts, however.

ROUTINES are not necessarily bad. Patterns and schedules give purpose and direction to life. Everyone lives by certain routines. You get up at about the same time every morning. You brush your teeth every day. You eat when you are hungry.

MARCUS V. HAND

You watch certain programs on television.

Routines are routes to accomplishment; ruts are roads to death. Routines release you to do more things more efficiently; ruts confine your spirit, stifle your creativity, block your progress. Routines are your servants; ruts are your masters.

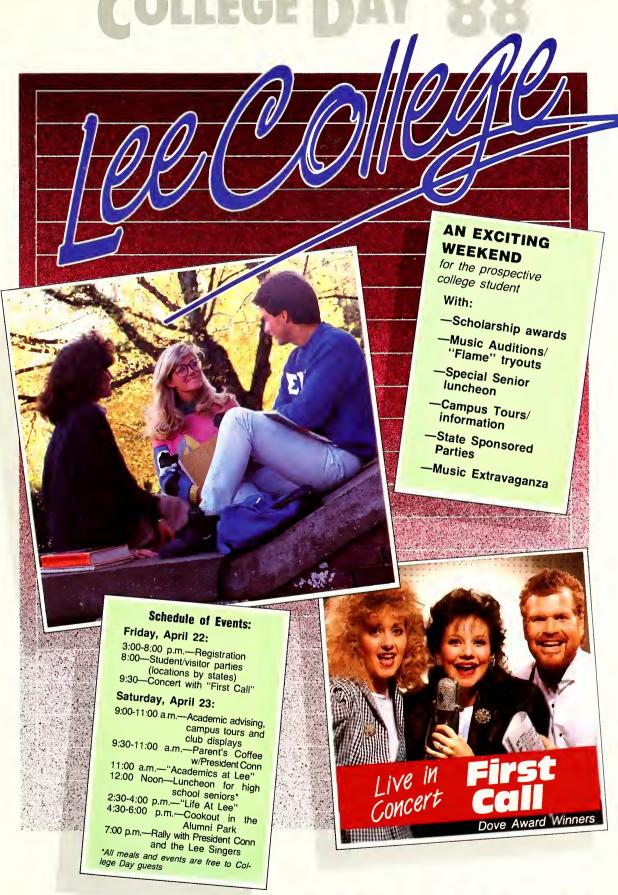
It is easy to tell when you are in a rut. If you are dissatisfied or downright unhappy with a certain area of your life, yet you are afraid to change, you are in a rut. Rather than take the necessary steps to get out of the rut, you sit on the sidelines and complain. Unwilling to get up and get in the game, you simply watch life pass you by.

People get bored because they are not as involved as they would like to be. Think about it: Active people don't get bored. They don't have the time for boredom. They never seem to wonder what to do next because they are too busy.

A RUT IS A GRAVE with both ends removed, someone has said. But because the ends are removed, you don't have to stay in the rut. You can get out. Here's what you can do to eliminate boredom in your life:

- Make a list of some things you would really like to do.
- Don't depend on others to entertain you or make all your plans for you.
- Take the initiative in personal relationships. Don't wait for the other person to speak first. Don't hang back trying to determine if a person "really likes" you before you open up to him or her.
- Try new things. Be a risk taker. You cannot grow as a person as long as you play it safe and do only those things you already know you can do.
- Think positively about yourself. Quit putting yourself down; you are trashing God's creation when you do. Stop talking about your "boring" personality.

Read Galatians 6:9. A generous paraphrase would be, Don't worry about routine activities that are good. They will pay off if you won't get bored or fall into a rut or give up.

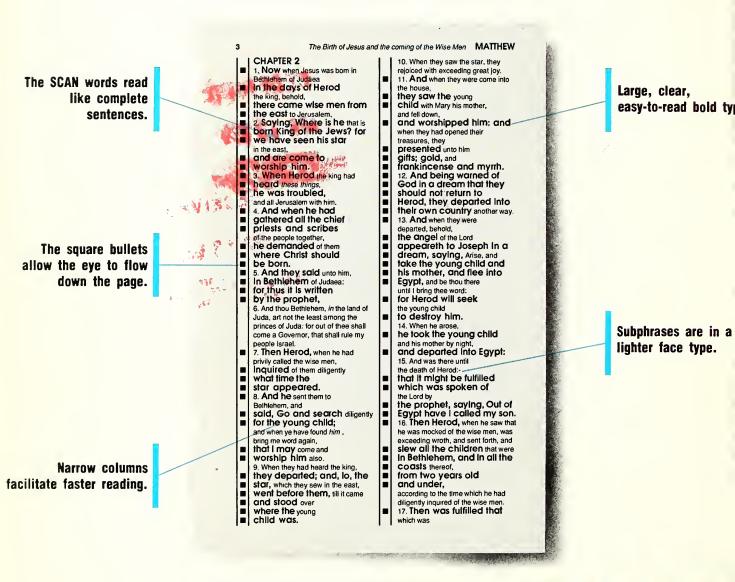


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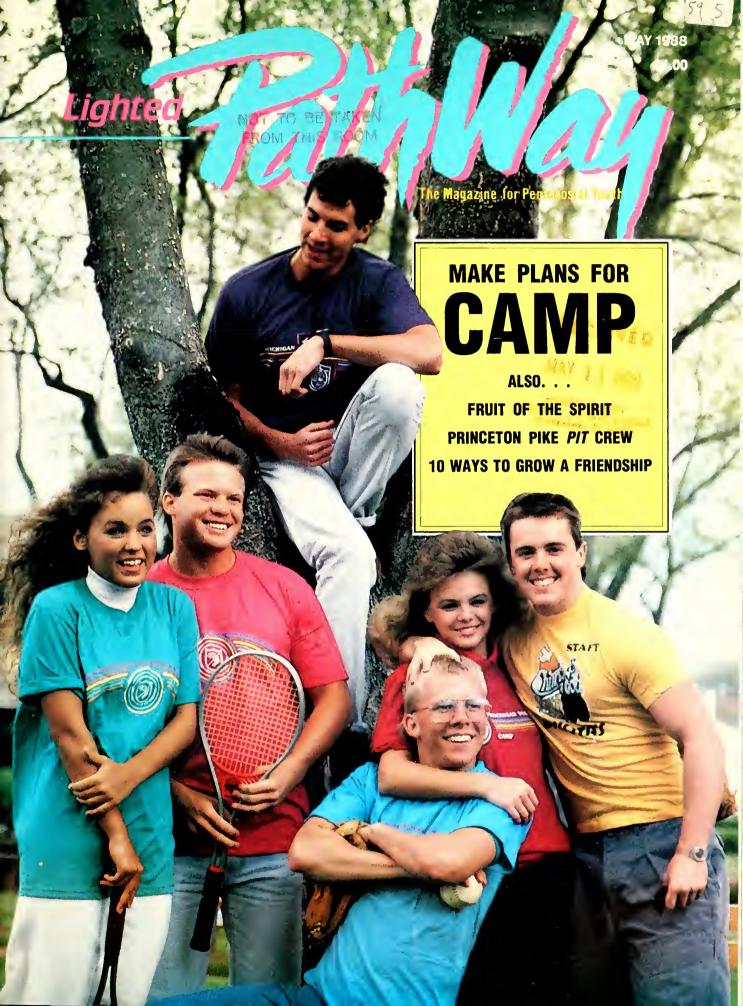
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VOLUME 59, NO. 5

MAY 1988

In addition to our seasonal emphases on the Holy Spirit and on mothers, we begin the annual countdown to youth camp; get ready for summer. An Ohio youth group ministers. Also, read about Karen Turner's triumph over childhood tragedy. Contact your state youth director for information on the camp nearest you.



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Mother's Day p. 12

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What Is Youth Camp? ☐ A cartoon feature
How Mother's Day Began ☐ Why obeying the fifth commandment is important
Princeton Pike's PIT Crew ☐ A youth group from Hamilton, Ohio, ministers
The Fruit of the Spirit ☐ A youth pastor explores these spiritual graces
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Hiding Under the Table ☐ Abused as a child, Karen grew to understand more about the love of God

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Midwest Winterfest 1988

SEVEN P.M. on Friday, Jan. 22, 1988

The place: Hyatt Regency, downtown Indianapolis

Some 650 young people and their youth leaders came

from eight states to

huddle for

the week-

end. The grand

ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Indianapolis was turned into a sanctuary of praise.

Teresa Mendenhall, a singer from Indianapolis, began to lift up the Lord and exalt His name. Following Teresa's ministry in music, Danny Murray and New Harvest did what they do best—communicate the gospel in a variety of musical styles. The name of Christ was praised, and some were saved. What talent they portrayed as they proclaimed that Church of God young people are indeed destined to win!

The evangelist for the weekend, Jentezen Franklin, preached with a divine anointing. He shared specifics about dealing with temptation and how to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Teens filled the altar each night seeking salvation, sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Those attending were reminded that the Holy Spirit is being poured out upon *all* flesh; He is no respecter of age or persons.

Kids were saved. They were slain in the Spirit. Many spoke with other



Evangelist Jentzen Franklin ministers. . . .

tongues as they were filled with the Holy Ghost.

Following each night's service, there was a time of fun and fellowship. The crowd was blessed by the ministry of Mark Lowery as he shared the gospel in song and entertained with comedy. What a communicator he is!

After two full days of fun and excitement, the retreatants met for a final gathering at the Grand Ballroom. After the message on the meaning of Communion, youth leaders from each church shared the elements of Communion with their respective youth groups.

Teens went to Winterfest to huddle, to get their game plan together. As each group left to return to its respective church, kids left with a sense of conquering power. The drive of champions was within them.

Somehow, it seemed that they had caught the true spirit of the wise men of long ago: they are following the star.



The Dangers of Smokeless Tobacco

SOME STATES estimate that as many as 40 percent of high school boys use smokeless tobacco regularly. Of those, as many as 55 percent began their tobacco habit before age 13 according to an article in a recent magazine.

Smokeless tobacco comes in two forms: chewing tobacco and snuff. Used orally, both products present serious problems for the user's mouth, including gum disease, tooth loss and all types of oral cancers.

Like cigarettes, smokeless tobacco contains nicotine. Use is linked to high blood pressure, an increased heart rate and, contrary to popular belief, a *slowed* reaction time. The high nicotine content in smokeless tobacco suggests it may be even more addictive than cigarettes.

The powerful cancer-causing agent nitrosamine is found in smokeless tobacco products at levels 100 to 1,000 times the limit set for food products. Since 1950, death from cancer of the tongue among young white males has more than doubled in the United States.

5 Biggest Problems Facing Teens

10 Years Ago

Today

1. Drug abuse

Drug abuse

Getting along with parents

Alcohol abuse

3. Don't know

Teen pregnancy

4. Miscellane-

Peer Pressures

5. Alcohol abuse

Don't know

-Emerging Trends, Vol. 9, No. 8

Feeling Good

MAKERS OF Trident, Dentyne and Certs joined a national polling company to conduct a nationwide youth survey. The American Chicle Company and The Roper Organization call it "the most comprehensive youth survey ever done." One of the questions youth were asked is

What makes you feel good?

95%-being an American

92% — friends

90%-my home life

85%—what my parents do for a living

85%-the clothes I wear

79%—my family spends enough time with me □





IN FEBRUARY Lyn (not her real name) described her dream guy: "He'd be asked if muscular. I would do anything he asked if lond, blue-eyed, dark tan, tall, muscular. IN FEBRUARY Lyn (not her real name) described her anything he asked if hold do anything he asked if hold do anything he asked if hold her real name) described her anything he asked if hold her real name) described her anything he asked if hold her real name) described her anything he asked if hold her real name) described her anything he asked if hold her anything he asked if her anything h s sexy enough and knows how to come on to a girl."

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he's sexy enough and knows how to come on to a girl.

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HAVE YOU TRIED THE NEW EXCLUSIVE HOUTH TALKLINE

Each month *Lighted Pathway* publishes a monthly topic or survey question. When you call YOUTH TALKLINE follow this procedure:

- Dial the YOUTH TALKLINE number: 6154 SURVEY, or (615) 478-7839.
- 2. At the sound of the tone, speak up clearly.
- 3. Give your full name, age, city and state.
- 4. Respond to the topic of the month.

Lighted Pathway will endeavor to answer all your questions, either by correspondence or through an article in the magazine. If you wish a personal response, be sure to give your address on the YOUTH TALKLINE.

YOUTH TALKLINE SUBJECT:

The most embarrassing experience I've had at school was when. . . .

GRIEF	
GLORY	

Love is . . .

Love is loving everybody, knowing that God is the power of all and helping each other. Thank you.

-Bobby Jack Judd Seville, Ga.

Sharing . . .

I think real love means being honest, faithful and sharing. \Box

-Karen Wood Greenwood, Miss. Age 20

Pen Pals

The *Lighted Pathway* is a blessing to me. I would like to correspond with other young people. □

—Pia VicenteWorld Evengelism Action CenterP.O. Box 133 MCC,Metro Manila, Philippines

My dream date is intelligent, witty and has a great personality. He is a guy who loves to go to church and will treat me as one of God's children. I would like a pen pal.

-Tammy Lindsey
Rt. 2, Lot 1, Four Grand Village
Lumberton, N.C. 28358



YOUTH CAMP

A time for decision...

BETWEEN THE AGES of 7 and 23 we make life's most important decisions. Some of the things we decide:

- -Who our permanent friends will be
- -Where or if we are going to college
- -Whom, if and when we will marry

-Where we stand in our own

We do not want anyone else to make your decisions for you. Some look at you as young in experience and lacking the wisdom that comes with age. Yet, you do have a knowledge of yourself; you do have an idea of what you want in life. This doesn't mean that you should not try to learn from your parents and profit from their success or failures.

But the bottom line is, You have to decide for yourself!

That's where the heavy load of responsibility settles on your shoulders. What is a right decision? How do you determine what is right? I have found that, first of all, my decisions must be made in the light of biblical principles. David said, "Thy

JUNUS FULBRIGHT



rything from horseshoes to soft-ball, track, volleyball, pingpong—you name it! During a week of camp, you form relationships with the camp Bible teacher, your counselor, adults you respect and with other committed Christian youth who are living where you are. Like you, they know what it is to be a teenager in 1988.

Worship experiences at camp are real and meaningful. There you consider your life and the decisions that wait to be made.

In short, youth camp puts you in touch with "real" people. It is an exciting place of adventure. The fellowship and fun is something you can build your life on as you make preparations for the rest of your life.

Now is the time to contact your pastor and make plans to attend youth camp in your state.

Youth camp is the right decision! \square

word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Second, I approach adults whom I respect for advice.

Third, I approach my own peer group, my friends, for advice.

Fourth, time alone in prayer—sharing my needs, concerns and questions with God—brings direction and answers in determining the right decisions.

Going to a Church of God youth camp can be one of the best decisions you'll make for this summer. If you just want to relax, unwind, have some fun, then camp is the place to be! You'll meet many friends and renew old acquaintances as you arrive with scores of other teens.

At camp there are all kinds of sports activities for the athletically inclined. Camp has eve-





YOUTH CAMP is being surrounded by a lot of happy faces ...



Youth Camp is learning about nature ...



Just Know the Counselor would like some of this Pretty vine to Help decorate our Cabin.

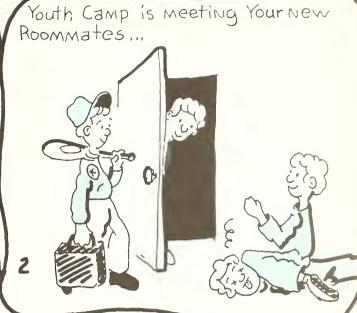
Youth Camp is a good night's Rest ...



Youth Camp is MORE of that good Ole Wholesome grub...







Youth Camp is becoming Proficient in Sports ...



Youth Campis soda Pop and Ice Cream ...



BUT MOST Youth Camp is finding God's PLan for





How Mother's Day began...



O.J. ROBERTSON

ONE OF THE TEN COMMAND-MENTS tells us to honor our mother.

Miss Anna Jarvis wanted everyone to do just that. It was Miss Jarvis who worked to have a special day set aside to honor mothers.

The celebration of Mother's Day is really a modern thing.

On May 8, 1914, the Congress of the United States signed a resolution to set aside the second Sunday in May as a national Mother's Day. A white carnation was chosen as the emblem of the day. President Woodrow Wilson was the first president to wear the carnation as a token of respect for all American mothers.

Miss Jarvis, who lived in Philadelphia, wished to honor her own mother and, seeing the need of establishing a special day for all mothers, worked hard to get her idea before the public. For many years she traveled about the United States, delivering speeches, writing letters to newspapers and magazines. Finally her efforts aroused the interest of the people.

Miss Jarvis' mother was especially fond of carnations. She often gave flowers to those who had none, to shut-ins and to the sick. She was known as an ideal mother—she had 11 children who loved her.

The white carnation, chosen to honor Mrs. Jarvis, symbolizes a pure heart and the unselfishness of motherhood.

Today many people give their mother gifts on Mother's Day. No doubt flowers are the most common of all gifts.

Do you plan to remember your mother in a special way on Mother's Day? You should!

If you have a gift in mind, something simple carries as much love as an expensive present.

Everyone can say "Mother, I love you, today and every day!"

And when you say your prayers, remember to thank God for the wonderful mother He gave you!



BibleStudy

PEOPLE WHO NEED people are the luckiest people in the world.

This familiar saying is indeed a fact. No one is so fortunate as he who needs friends.

Since the beginning, people have chosen to live with and near other people. We shun loneliness like the plague. Those who declare their independence from the world and try to live away from everyone are the exceptions.

Teens like to be with other teens. Jesus understood this when He said, "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20).

You limit what God can do for you and in you when you choose not to develop rich friendships.

YOU

NEED

The Bible says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

Dale Carnegie said, "You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you."

Jesus is the friend who sticks closer than a brother. He said, "You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants. . . . Instead, I have called you friends, for everything I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you" (John 15:14-16).

(All scripture are taken from the *New International Version*)



BE-A-FRIEND

IF YOU WERE someone else, would you want you for a best friend? The best way to cultivate a great friendship is to be a great friend. Can your friends depend on you? Are you loyal? Do you know what kind of friend you are? Here's a checklist to help you evaluate yourself as a friend. Study the scriptural principle involved.

Sometimes

- 1. I keep company with friends who share similar thoughts, moral values and a love for God (1 Corinthians 1:10).
- 2. My love for my friend is based on God's love (John 13:34).
- 3. I invest a lot of myself in my friends (Romans 12:10).
- 4. My friendships with others grow (1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:10).
- 5. I'm honest in my relationships with my friends (Ephesians 4:25).
- 6. I refrain from passing judgment on my friends (Romans 14:12, 13).
- 7. When legitimate purposes challenge each other, I defer to my friends (Philippians 2:3-5).
- 8. I readily forgive my friends when they irritate me or do me wrong (Colossians 3:13).



BibleStudy

Always		Sometimes	Usually	Always
	9. I accept my friends as individuals of value, even when we			
	disagree (Romans 15:7).			
	10. I try to avoid tension and			
	conflict in my relationships (Romans 14:19).			
	11. If conflict arises, I take im-			
	mediate steps to bring about reconciliation (Matthew 5:24).			
	12. If a friend does me wrong, I try to patch things up between			
	us in private (Matthew 18:15).			
	13. I build my friends up, not tear them down (1 Thessalonians 5:11).			
	14. I try to understand my friends' needs and share their load			
	(Galatians 6:2).			
	15. I pray for my friends' special needs (James 5:16).			
	16. I encourage my friends (Hebrews 3:13).			



Bible Study



10 WAYS TO GROW A FRIENDSHIP

- 1. Be loyal and faithful to your friends—Ephesians 5:21.
- 2. Accept your friends as they are—Romans 15:7.
- 3. Cleanse your life of attitudes that are critical of others—Matthew 7:1-5.
- 4. Give preference to your friends—Romans 12:10.
- 5. Build your friends up by encouraging them -1 Thessalonians 5:11.
- 6. Keep your conversation clear of pet peeves and other negatives— Ephesians 4:31, 32.
- 7. Give your friends space. Don't smother them by being too possessive—1 Thessalonians 4:11.
- 8. Appreciate your friends sincerely—1 Peter 3:8.
- 9. Keep your friends' confidence by never betraying them—James 1:26.
- 10. Be a peacemaker at all times-Romans 14:19. □

Princeton Pike's Parinceton Pike's

This youth group lives in the fast lane. . . .

GREG BAIRD



ONE OF THE MOST important parts of an auto racing team is the pit crew. Whether changing a tire, putting fuel in the gas tank, washing the windows or communicating with the driver, each member of the pit crew has an important task to do. It is a team effort; everyone plays a part. Everyone must do his or her job.

Last winter the *P*ike *I*nvasion *T*eam—"PIT Crew"—was born. It was birthed out of a desire of our young people at Princeton Pike to reach outside the four walls of our church to youth in other churches. We do this through what we call "PIT Stops."

PIT is an acronym that stands for Pike Invasion Team. PIT Stops consist of youth camps, youth rallies, revivals, lock-ins, retreats, street services, school rallies and banquets. The PIT Crew is a high-commitment-level activity and, therefore, not for everyone in the youth group.

All members of the PIT Crew are required to go through an extensive six-week training period in discipleship. They fast, ast summer, the PIT Crew traveled over 4,000 miles and ministered in two teen camps and two junior camps to a total of more than 600 young people.

pray, memorize Scripture, learn how to share their own personal testimony and train in a specific area of ministry.

Some of these areas of ministry are

- street ministry
- clown ministry
- puppet teams
- sharing testimonies
- drama
- preaching
- music
- teaching
- fun time.

Two special musical groups travel with the PIT Crew-Triumph and Dove. Triumph is a contemporary gospel group under the direction of Deb-Byington. The group consists of Rich Anglin, Denise Ayers, Eddie Bying-David ton, Chaney, Judy Flick, Mundo Hornsby, Paul Miller. Keith Murrell and Susan Oakley.

Also part of our youth choir the Shekinah Singers, under the direction of Jim Phillips, they are a vital part of our music minis-



Dove, a progressive contemporary group, appeals to today's youth through their music



Sonshine Clowns presents the Christian message through drama and clowning to children's churches, kids crusades, youth camps, and VBS's.

try at Princeton Pike.

Dove is a progressive contemporary Christian band that combines the music that appeals to today's youth with the positive message of Jesus Christ. In addition to playing on the PIT Stops, the band plays every Wednesday night for the youth service, "Youth Quake." The band consists of Rich Anglin, Eddie Byington, Kevin Metz, Rob Novell, Jason Ramsey and Steve Stumph.

The PIT Crew ministers on the second Wednesday of each month in the main sanctuary. We testify and share with our music while telling about good things that have been accomplished through the PIT Crew.

The Sonshine Clowns and puppet teams are a very active part of the PIT Crew. They minister in nursing homes, youth camps, Bible schools and children's

churches. This unique ministry of clowning, puppets and drama is effective, and they never fail to bring a smile!

IT Stops consist of youth camps, youth rallies, revivals, lock-ins, retreats, street services, school rallies and banquets.

Some of the highlights of the PIT Crew's summer are working in youth camps, street services and outside youth rallies. Our street services are well-planned and publicized weeks in advance. We work in conjunction with our church's Evangelism and Outreach Department, under the direction of Wendell Davis. The Crew shares testimonies, sings, preaches the Word and passes out tracts.

Last summer, the PIT Crew

traveled over 4,000 miles and ministered in two teen camps and two junior camps to a total of more than 600 young people. As a result, 82 people received the Lord as their personal Savior, and two were baptized in the Holy Ghost.

We praise God for what He is doing through our youth group in the area of evangelism and outreach. We are also thank-

ful for the support of our pastor, the Rev. H.B. Thompson Jr., the Princeton Pike Church and the State Youth Department of Southern Ohio. □



Youth minister Greg Baird, right, leads Triumph, a contemporary gospel group selected from the Shekinah Singers youth choir.



A teen shares the message of Christ to children during a street service.

A REVIVAL FIRE burns in the young people of our church. They are being used to minister to each other through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. However, it is important to realize that for the gifts of the Spirit to operate freely, we have to bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. The gifts do not function without the fruit in evidence.

The fruit of the Spirit identifies you as a Christian. Galatians 5:22, 23 lists the fruit of the Spirit. The first one mentioned is love. Jesus said in John 13:34, 35, "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another" (NIV). When people look at us, they should see love.

No matter what the situation or how badly we failed a test or how much we are hurting, we must show in our lives the fruit of love.

Dr. Charles Conn, in The Balanced Church, put the fruit of the Spirit in three divisions. **The** first division deals with the emotions. It includes the fruit of love, joy and peace.

We are generally usually emotional people. We don't have to be around others long before you can tell if they are motivated by love, joy and peace. Even though we feel up one day with everything going great and down the next day with everything lousy, the fruit of love, joy and peace helps us even out the drastic changes.

The second division deals with relationships, or how we relate to other people. These include long-suffering tience), gentleness (kindness) and goodness.

PERRY KEYT L.

There will always be people who are hard to get along with. There may be a person who "rubs you the wrong way." You may think it would be impossible to develop a relationship with him or her. And in yourself, you are right-it would be impossible. But with the Holy Spirit working in us to develop the relationship fruits, we can have a good friendship with that person. In doing so, we become a witness to the power of the Holy Spirit and can perhaps win that person to Christ.

The final division deals with attitudes. These include the fruits of faith, meekness and temperance (self-control). They deal with not only our attitude toward others but also our atti-



tude toward God. The Bible tells us we must have faith in order to be pleasing to God. The Bible also says that all of us have been given a "measure," or amount, of faith. The important thing is not how much faith we have but how we use what we have.

Meekness concerns the way we view ourselves in relationship to God. We are to be meek and humble before Him. God has given all of us talents and abilities; however, meekness helps us realize we are totally dependent on God for everything we have. Every talent and ability we possess comes from Him.

The last fruit is temperance. Another word for temperance is self-control. In Galatians 5:19-21, we find the acts of the sinful nature. Verse 19 lists the sin of lasciviousness. The New International Version calls it "debauchery." The definition is "a without control." God doesn't want you to live your life zooming down the fast lane out of control. God wants you to have self-control in the face of sin-not to take your fun away, but to keep you from death.

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust [desire], and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:14, 15). The Holy Spirit wants to develop self-control in you, but you have to allow Him to do it.

The fruit of the Spirit, like any other fruit, takes time to grow. If you fall in one area, don't get discouraged. Pick yourself up and continue to let God produce the fruit of the Spirit in you!



F YOU ARE LIKE MOST TEENS I know, you are a sensitive, caring person. Pentecostal Christians contribute positively to the teen image.

But how do you react when you face criticism? Do you handle it maturely, recognizing and taking the opportunity to strengthen your weaknesses? Or do you feel crushed by invalid, vague opinions? They leave you lifeless, your energy sapped. Perhaps you become defensive, fighting back with equally hurtful criticism.

Criticism is judgment. A critic observes, evaluates, draws conclusions, expresses an opinion. Positive reinforcement from a trustworthy critic helps your selfimage. But when criticism becomes destructive, it strains relationships, inflicts heartache and sorrow, and hinders the movement of the Lord.

Use criticism for personal growth. These guidelines will help you.

RECEIVING CRITICISM

- Pray. When you receive criticism, pray that the Lord will make you open to what should be heard and strong enough to turn away what should not be dwelt on. Ask yourself what the Lord is trying to do through this criticism. God knew this was coming your way. Why did He allow it? What was His reason? Does your attitude need changing? Are you overlooking important information?
- Do not become defensive.

 It is human nature to defend

When receiving or giving criticism, you must remember that Christ has called us to live in unity. . . .

ourselves, to try to protect our exposed egos. Accept the fact that you are not perfect. Be willing to listen to suggestions that will improve your character.

- Do not interrupt. Let your critic finish all he has to share. How often we interrupt with disclaimers and accusations and destroy the possibility of a growing experience!
- Ask for evidence. Don't be afraid to ask your critic where he or she got the information. Ask for specific examples. Has the critic arrived at his own conclusions, or is he expressing hearsay? If the critic's opinions are valid, accept them. If not, point out that the evidence is insufficient or the conclusions are invalid.
- Ask yourself why this person is criticizing. Does the person have needs of his own or motives that are not readily apparent? Determine what the real problem is, and try to help the critic see the hidden factors that may be involved. (Be careful, however. Approach this step with honesty, not as a way to rationalize and justify a personal weakness or to shift the attention.)
- Pray. Before you respond, talk to God about it. Pray for wisdom to know how to respond. Should you telephone the critic, respond in writing, confront him face-to-face? The direct way is best, but what is important is to respond with honesty, love and respect.

To strengthen our weaknesses and improve our character, we must learn to not only receive criticism but to also be cautious and sensitive when sharing criticism. What about those times when you feel you should share criticism? Is there ever a need to confront? Matthew 18:15 tells us that if someone holds a grudge against you, you should "'go and tell him his fault between you and him alone'" (NKJV)

GIVING CRITICISM

- Check your motives. Before you criticize someone, ask yourself why you are expressing this criticism. Are you retaliating for a hurt ego? Is your motive jealousy or impatience, or are you truly concerned about the person? If everyone honestly checked his motives before approaching someone, there would be much less destructive criticism in the Christian world.
- *Pray*. Ask the Lord to direct your criticism, to guide your conversation so that it will be constructive. Your intention is to foster oneness in the Spirit, not to sever a brother or sister from the body of Christ.
- Go directly and privately. The guidelines in Matthew 18:15 on how to approach a brother say we are to go to him, not to everyone else in the youth group. And we are to go to him in private. There is nothing more devastating than to have your faults pointed out in public. Be considerate and kind. It takes courage to share a reproof candidly and privately.

- Be sincere. Ask heartfelt questions of the person being criticized; then listen with an open mind to his answers. He may have additional information which would explain his position. This also gives you the opportunity to make suggestions for alternatives. To reproach a person but suggest no alternative is pointless.
- Speak in love. Approach others with honest motives and under the right circumstances, but speak to them in love. Your love and concern for a person will show in your tone of voice, your facial expression, and your willingness to listen and come to mutually agreeable conclusions.
- Develop a good reputation. If you dwell on others' weaknesses, habitually complain or become a self-appointed fault-finder, your complaints will not be heeded. You must earn the right to be heard.

Let's face it; some criticism is inevitable. In any line of work that involves people, you will face criticism. Only you can decide how criticism will affect you. When receiving or giving criticism, you must remember that Christ has called us to live in unity.

Criticism can become a stepping-stone to a higher level of maturity and personal awareness. Or it can cause a continual pattern of denial, resulting in a distorted self-image. Criticism is not painless or easy to accept, but we can decide to learn from it and continue to grow.

Heartfelt Music From

21

23

26-27

28-29

29 PM



New Harvest with Judy Jacobs



Directed by Danny Murray

May Calendar

1	LaFollette, TN	LaFollette Church of God
5-7	Gatlinburg, TN	Convention
8 AM	Pulaski, VA	Bob White Blvd. Church of God
9-11	Johnson City, TN	Tri-Cities Crusade
14	Memphis, TN	Libertyland Youth Festival
15-18	Memphis, TN	Greater Memphis Crusade
	(TN Civic Center)	
20	Baltimore, MD	Youth Concert

Warner Robins, GA International City Church of God Charlotte, NC (Coliseum) Rejoice '88 Weatherford, TX Texas Pentecost Rally Mobile, AL Creighton Church of God Mobile, AL Loxley Church of God



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Franklin Springs, GA



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HIDING UNDERTHE TABLE

I REMEMBER SITTING IN DAD'S LAP, munching popcorn and feeling secure in his strong embrace. I was his little girl, his only little girl, and he was my strength.

Until he began changing. . . .

I could see the change in Dad's eyes: the warm glow of tenderness was replaced by a strange fire. He was not the daddy I had once known. This man would get upset over minor things that were beyond my control, then take it out on me or one of my three brothers. He would yank our hair . . . bruise us with his hands . . . raise welts on us with his belt.

How could someone I had trusted and looked up to for strength treat me like this? My world came crashing down.

I would try to soothe my pain by running away. Running away, to me, meant fleeing to the comfort of the big living room table. When a fight started or a temper flared, I would run to the table, scrunch up under two chair legs and bury my face in the thick carpet. During those harsh moments, I covered my ears and tried to forget I was living. One fall morning Dad got into an argument with my oldest brother. When Dad threatened his life, my other brothers, no longer children, stood up to my father. Covering my ears, I couldn't block out the rumble. I can still hear Mom saying, "Jim, you can kill us all, but we know where we'll go, and you know where you'll go."

My mother, a devout Christian, stood on God's Word, and God protected us.

My father left us that day, and I came out from under the table in search of peace.

My search led me to understand that God and God alone can be trusted completely. My earthly father had let me down

TURNER

KAREN

and left me, but my heavenly Father was always there. What a comfort!

Fall passed, and winter. One spring day a police officer came to our door and asked for my mom. I was told to leave the room while they talked.

The news of my father's suicide shook our home, but we clung to the Rock, and He brought us through.

Looking back, I have no hard feelings toward my father. Instead, I choose to recall the happy times. I remember riding around with Dad in his old red pickup . . . and eating watermelon with him on the back porch. He would warn me not to eat the seeds, saying I'd grow a watermelon in my tummy.

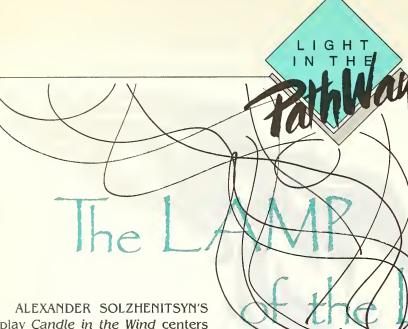
I will never forget the morning Dad came into my bedroom, kissed my forehead and told me goodbye. He said he loved me and was sorry he had to leave.

If my dad could see me today, I hope he would be pleased.

More than that, though, I hope my life pleases my heavenly Father. I say with the psalmist, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. . . . Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over" (Psalm 23:1, 5).

I don't have to hide under God's table. Instead, God has set His table before me and seated me at its head! As I eat from His table, He assures me He never changes and that He will never leave me.

I can always count on my Father! \square



ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN'S play Candle in the Wind centers around the work of scientists in the field of cybernetics. Alex, the main character, is not sure it is wise to tamper mechanically with the human personality. He reasons that if you artificially induce a state of happiness, it will dehumanize the patient.

In a conversation with the self-confident director of the cyber-netics laboratory, Alex says, "You once said you feel like a relay runner—that you would be proud to pass on the baton of Great Physics to the 21st century. Well, I'd like to pass on to the next century one particular baton, the flickering candle of our soul."

The Bible says, "The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart" (Proverbs 20:27, NKJV). When God deals with us, He does it through our spirit. His Holy Spirit speaks to our human spirit and creates a light, a spark that reaches out to others. We must not permit our spirit to become a "flickering candle."

How can we keep our spirit growing and glowing? One important way is to guard what goes into our mind. Today's information explosion overloads the circuits. The glut of data available staggers us. We must learn to be selective in what we allow inside our mind.

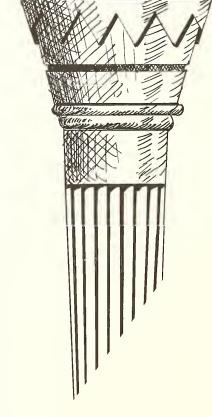
In Philippians 4:8, Paul urges us to guard our thoughts. He says they can be

- Righteous or unrighteous
- Clean or unclean
- Moral or immoral
- Honest or dishonest
- Pure or impure
- True or untrue
- Noble or ignoble
- Just or unjust
- Lovely or ugly
- Good or evil
- Virtuous or corrupt
- Praiseworthy or unworthy.

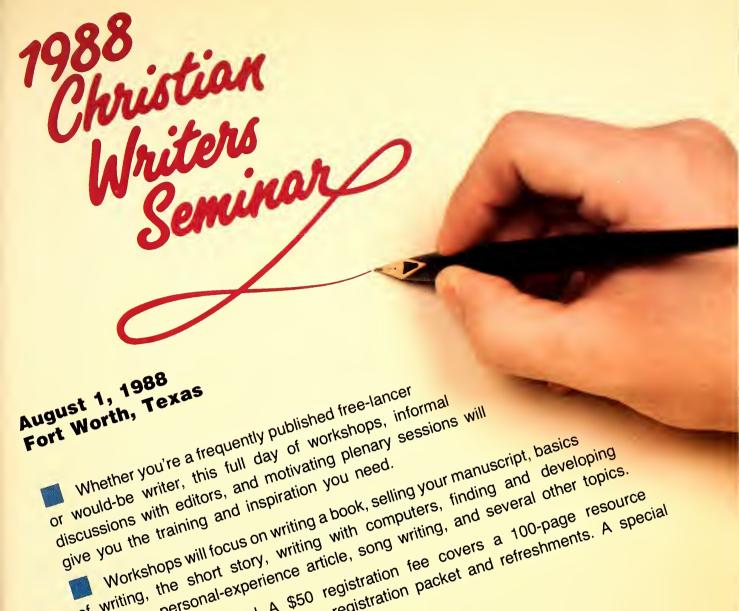
Just think. You will still be a young person when this century changes, less than 12 years from now! When you hand the baton off to the next generation of teenagers, give them an edge by the example you have set and the commitment you have made.

The spirit of a man . . . the lamp of the Lord.

Let yours be a torch, not a flickering candle. \square



MARCUS V. HAND

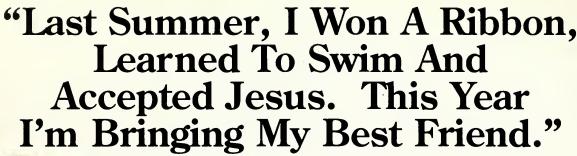


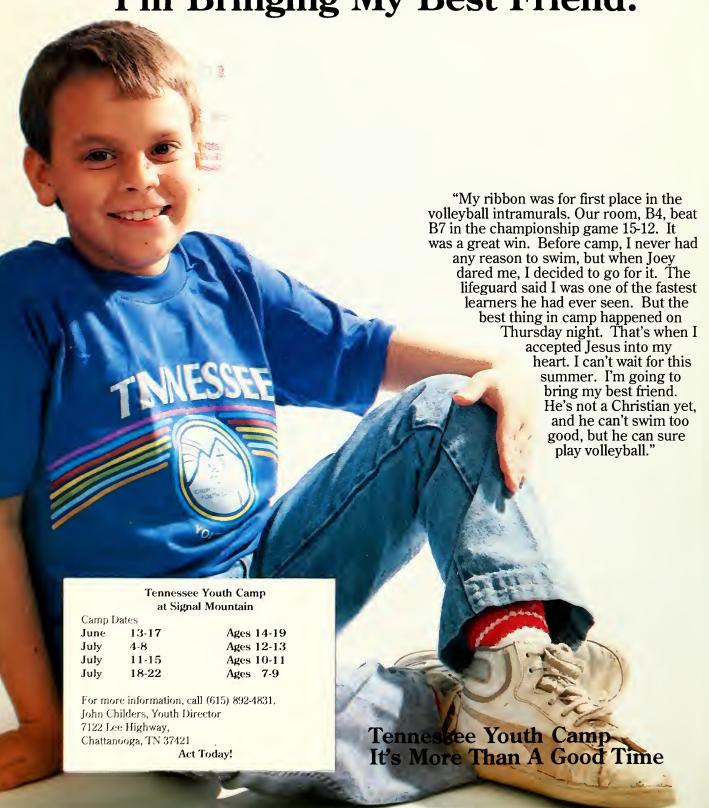
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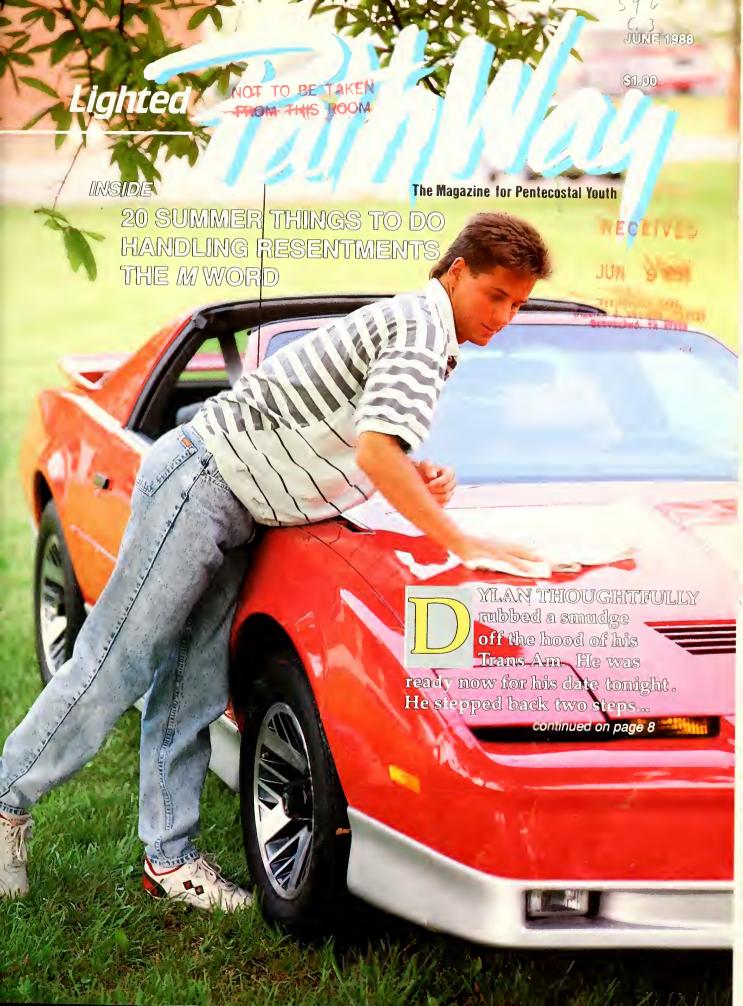
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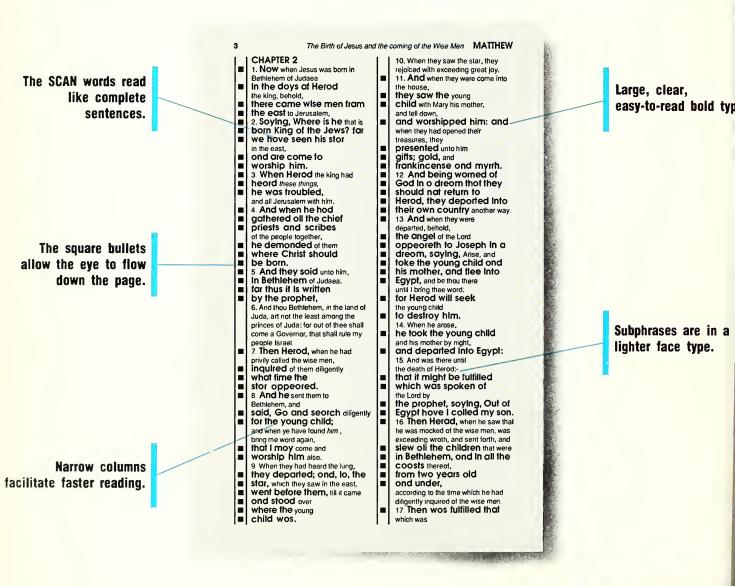






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JUNE 1988

Explore summer . . . share with someone in need . . . learn patience . . . don't allow bitterness and resentment to squeeze the joy out of your life. Think missions . . . reflect on your relationship with your parents . . . listen for the Lord's leading . . . honor your father and your Father. This issue is your summer companion. Enjoy!



Sunday Date p. 8



Understanding the *M* Word p. 24

VOLUME 59, NO. 6
RECEIVED

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JUN 9 1988

PERIODICALS DEPT. Sunday Date
Can a Christian handle responsibilities success and a very unusual date? Things to Do This Summer

Fantastic opportunities for fun and for doing something meaning-12 Patience, A Learned Virtue
When you need patience and you need it now! Will My Parents and I Ever Understand Each Other? ☐ The answer may surprise you. . . . How God Speaks ☐ If you need answers from God read this. . . . Carla McDaniel ☐ A North Dakota teen shares her witness by excelling. . . . **22** I Honor My Father \square Father's Day for today's special families. . . . **24** Understanding the *M* Word \square When your view of missions is outdated. . . . **REGULARS** Pathway Review
News and Views from all around. . . . **Youth Speaks Out** ☐ What do you plan to do this summer? Grief and Giory Letters of praise and. . . . 13 Bible Study
Resentment. . . . **Light in the Pathway** ☐ The editor's musings. . . .

PHOTO CREDITS: Jonne Crick, cover; Jim Whitmer, pp. 16, 17; Downstairs Attic, p. 24

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SANDI PATTI and Larnelle Harris received six of 15 Dove Awards given by the Gospel Music Association for 1988.

Winners are selected by 3,200 singers, musicians, songwriters and other members of the Nashvillebased association. A special feature was the induction of Cliff Barrows. veteran music director for the Billy Graham Crusades, into the Gospel

Music Hall of Fame. Sandi Patti has been named the top female gospel

singer for seven

consecutive

years.

1988 DOVE AWARDS

This is the fifth year she has been named Christian music's No. 1 art-

This year's Dove Awards include Artist of the Year-Sandi Patti Male Vocalist of the Year-Larnelle Harris

Female Vocalist of the Year-Sandi Patti

Songwriter of the Year-Larnelle Har-

Group of the Year-First Call

Inspirational Album of the Year-"The Father Hath Provided," Larnelle Harris

Worship/Praise Album of the Year-"The Final Word," Michael Card

Musical Album of the Year-"A Son! A Savior!" Various artists

Children's Music-"Bullfrogs and Butterflies, Part III," The Agapeland Singers and Candle

Song of the Year-"In the Name of the Lord," Phil McHugh, Gloria Gaither, Sandi Patti

Rock-Gospel Album of the Year-"Crack the Sky," Mylon LeFevre and Broken Heart

> Gospel Music Hall of Fame-Cliff Barrows

Traditional Black-Gospel Album of the Year-"One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism," Aretha Franklin

> Contemporary Black-Gospel Album of the Year-The Winans

> > Short Form Video of the Year-"Stay for a While," Amy Grant

STUDENT SPEAKERS

KAREN WEAVER and Rachel Dalton graduated last month from Chrysler High School in New Castle, Ind. Both earned National Forensic League Degrees of Special Distinction, the highest individual honor a student speaker can achieve.

Karen will be competing in the National Forensic League's National Speech Tournament June 12-19 in Nashville, Tenn. She also had the lead female role in the musical "Oklahoma," performed by New Castle Chrysler High School.

Both teens are members of the youth choir at the "N" Avenue Church of God in New Castle.

Karen is the daughter of the evangelist Henry and Patricia Weaver. Rachel is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Dalton. □



RACHEL DALTON



KAREN WEAVER

ENGLAND'S NATIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION

"THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT" was the theme of the 24th National Youth and Christian Education Convention of the Church of God in England and Wales. Over 4,500 delegates descended on the East Midlands city of Leicester to worship God His way—in spirit and in truth.

From the outset of the meeting the auditorium was full and we soon realized that after much prayer and fasting God was about to do something fresh with His people. The sound of refreshing was in the air, and people came in by the thousands, but in the end many had to return home due to lack of space.

Preaching. Preachers included the Rev. Selwyn E. Arnold, Dr. Joseph Jackson and Esron Grey. Every night our altars were packed with earnest seekers, and God con-

firmed His Word by saving people from their sins and baptizing others in the Holy Ghost. Over 40 received the baptism in the Holy Ghost; dozens more were saved and delivered from the power of Satan. The Word will never lose its power.

Workshops. Workshops for different age and interest groups included "Teens and Sex—Why Wait?"; "Now That the Honeymoon Is Over" (for newly married couples); "Maximizing Manhood"; and "God's Little People" (ages 9-12). Each workshop was packed to capacity in spite of the fact that we were using three of the largest lecture halls Leicester University could provide.

Over 250 teens attended the "Why Wait?" workshop. The masterly way Joel Edwards handled the subject helped the young people understand that their sexuality is a gift from God, a gift which should not be abused. The inspector from the Department of Education and Science was present, and he was greatly impressed by our program and the high standards of the various workshops.

Music. The music was exceptional. The mass choir, 250 strong, lifted the audience into the very presence of God.

The highlight was the cantata titled "Alive!" It was presented by the New Testament Gospel Choir on Easter Sunday morning. The 60-strong choir proclaimed that Jesus is alive and concluded to a standing ovation and mighty shouts of praise to Almighty God.

Eric Brown, National YouthDirector of England

S P E A K S O U T!



Our May Talkline question was "What do you responses:

Our May Talkline question was "What do your plan to do this summer?"

Here are a few of your

What I will do this summer is go to parties and have a lot of fun with my friends. But I won't get drunk or drive crazy or do anything I know is wrong in the Holy Spirit.

—Julie Howard Age 14 Royal Palm Beach, Fla. PLACE STAMP HERE

I am 18 years old, and I just started reading the Bible on a regular basis. A friend gave me one of your magazines. I like the magazine, and it's just what I need to stay in touch with God and feed my mind.

–John Cockwell Allentown, Penn.

I attend college in Fresno. This summer I'll be touring.

—Marco Gonzalez Age 18 Fresno, Calif.

PLACE STAMP HERE

Justa few lines...

This summer I won't get drunk or get crazy and party like a really or get crazy and party like a really crazy person. What I would like to do is go to Colorado or Montana do is family. It's really great to and visit family. It's really great to be able to do things as a Christian be able to do things as a Christian and to be able to witness to your

family.

Another thing, I won't be rude or take drugs or drive crazy.

−Jennifer Blair Frazier Age 16 Sanford, Fla. Thank you for Lighted Pathway magazine. It has been a great blessmagazine. It has been a great blessman. It has been a great blessman as are assistant am now working as an assistant am now working as an assistant at our local church in Cape Town. At our local church in Cape Town. My prayer is that the Lord will continue to use your "mag" as a tool of blessing.

L.P. MarsehCape TownRepublic of South Africa



HAVE YOU TRIED THE NEW EXCLUSIVE YOUTH

Each month *Lighted Pathway* publishes a monthly topic or survey question. When you call YOUTH TALKLINE follow this procedure:

- Dial the YOUTH TALKLINE number: 6154 SURVEY, or (615) 478-7839.
- 2. At the sound of the tone, speak up clearly.
- 3. Give your full name, age, city and state.
- 4. Respond to the topic of the month.

Lighted Pathway will endeavor to answer all your questions, either by correspondence or through an article in the magazine. If you wish a personal response, be sure to give your address on the YOUTH TALKLINE.

YOUTH TALKLINE SUBJECT:

"The thing I fear most is. . . ."



Excellent issue

Compliments to you and your fine staff for an excellent March issue of the *Lighted Pathway*.

-W.A. Davis
General Director
Youth and Christian Education

Pen Pals

I live on the island of Guam in the Mariana Islands. My dad is a serviceman stationed here, and we go to the Church of God Servicemen's Center. I'd like some pen pals, age 15-18, who really love God and try to live it seven days a week. I like school and seeing God work. I'm a certified scuba diver and like to collect shells and old baseball cards.

My friend, Mike Barnhart, is 22 and would like to correspond with girls 18 and over. He is in the Navy and just returned from a cruise in the Persian Gulf. There are very few Christians to date and hang around with here.

-Joe Stapp
12 Gilmore
Lockwood Ter.
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, CA 96630

Sumolan Date



MARGARET SULLIVAN

HE GOT HIS TRANS AM BY OBEYING THE RULES AND BEING RESPONSIBLE. HOW HE GOT HIS SUNDAY DATE HAPPENED LIKE THIS. . . .

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

. . . to get a more complete view of the mirror-finish wax job he'd just given it.

"Classic. Totally classic," he said as he admired the buffed chrome, shined mags, wiped upholstery, dusted dashboard and vacuumed rugs. He wondered, idly, what his Sunday "date" would think of his flashy wheels.

The thought vanished as his best friend, Roger, came across the front lawn. "FAN-tastic! You're ready for cruisin' tonight!" He ran his finger lightly over the black eagle emblazoned across the bright red hood. He walked around to the back of the car and leaned against the spoiler.

"Kate didn't have to baby sit after all, so we're still on for tonight. But she has to be in by midnight, or her dad will turn me into a pumpkin." He grinned. "Everything still cool with Heather?"

"Yeah, sure," Dylan answered. "Everything's set. The plan is to pick the girls up at 7:30. Then we can cruise in town before the show, see who's around. We can catch the youth group talent show at 8 o'clock and grab some burgers at Dairy Queen afterward. Midnight curfew should be no problem. Be-

sides, Heather has to be in by 12:30."

"Sounds great to me," said Roger. "Thanks for providing the transportation tonight. You sure are one lucky guy!" He slapped Dylan on the back and threw up his hands. "Some guys have it so-o-o-o good!" He ogled the car one last time before he shook his head and walked away.

Dylan smiled. He tried to be cool about the car, but he couldn't stop smiling with pride. He relished the thought of driving up and down Main Street tonight and seeing eyes turned toward his car, eyes assessing and heads nodding in collective approval. Yes, he was proud of his wheels.

He had earned them. His parents gave him the Trans Am for his 17th birthday. Only 12 months before, his dad had issued the edict: "No speeding. No drinking. No tickets of any kind. We'll work out a schedule for you to share the family car with mom. If you show us you can be a responsible, safe and sober driver for one year, we'll buy you a car of your own."

His dad was making an example of him. It wasn't easy being the only son of a small-town police chief.

But he fulfilled his part of the bargain. He conscientiously followed traffic rules, watched his speed carefully and stayed away from the drinking crowd. Now, one year later, he had his reward. It far surpassed what he'd expected. Somehow the Trans Am didn't fit the image he had of the car a cop would buy for his son.

"The better to see you with!" was his dad's only comment.

Well, it had been worth it. And if this was his dad's idea of a conspicuous advertisement for safe and sober driving, who was he to argue?

Dylan drove it as much as he could. He drove to school, picking up friends. He took his mother shopping. He even took his little sister, Marie, to drama class. He began driving to early church service so he wouldn't have to ride in his dad's car. He went to early church alone.

That's how he got caught holding a pink paper heart for "Love Offering Sunday." In the past, his mother always took one for the whole family. Then she would deliver a bag of canned goods to the food bank. Dylan helped her pick out good stuff at the store. Marie packed the bag. Dad wrote "our donation to food bank" on the heartshaped paper and put it in the collection basket on the following Sunday. They had tried to make the annual all-church volunteer drive a family effort.

But this year, Dylan had taken a heart paper from the usher, and so had Mom. Any-

way, this year was different. He felt like he should do his own thing for charity this time. He wanted to do something different, something on his own.

But what? Printed in the church bulletin, he found a list of suggested volunteer activities. Baby-sitting? Maybe. Cooking? Definitely not. Visit a nursing home? No, he wouldn't know what to say to old people. Driving? Well, why not? He called his pastor that evening to volunteer as a driver.

Pastor Johnson was glad he called. "Great! Mrs. Swann lives up the hill from you on Hendrick Road. She never learned to drive. Since her husband died, she's depended on rides from her sister. But now her sister has just moved into her daughter's home in Bellingham. What she needs is a ride to church. She's an early bird. I used to see them out walking at dawn before Mr. Swann's heart attack. She prefers going to the early service, same as you."

And that's how he had got his Sunday date.

Now, while Dylan was set to go out with Heather tonight, he was a little apprehensive about his date with Mrs. Swann tomorrow morning. He'd just have to play it cool. He pictured himself as Sir Galahad, honor-bound to aid any damsel in distress, even if her hair was white and her skin wrinkled.

Saturday night was great. He could tell Heather was impressed with his heightened status as they cruised through town drawing admiring stares

HE PICTURED HIMSELF AS SIR GALAHAD, HONOR-BOUND TO AID ANY DAMSEL IN DISTRESS, EVEN IF HER HAIR WAS WHITE . . .

from people they passed. Later, stuffing a french fry in his mouth, Roger told the gang about Dylan's offer to drive the old lady to church. Heather razzed him gently about her competition. He laughed it off, but still he felt kind of weird about his Sunday date.

Sunday morning he rolled up to Mrs. Swann's faded white house and had barely got the parking brake on before out she came. So fast, she must have been watching from her window. She'd marched halfway up to the car before he had a chance to get out and open the door for her. Frail, she wasn't.

Mrs. Swann nodded approvingly at the ride she'd accepted and smiled at Dylan's good manners. Inside, she sat bolt upright and looked around the interior before she turned to him with a twinkle in her eye. "My sister's boy had one of these. He used to race against his rival's Firebird down Riverside Drive. The neighbors called the cops on him three times before he got caught."

She leaned toward him conspiratorially. "How fast does this go anyway?"

Dylan was surprised at the question. "I don't know. I haven't tried to clock it. My dad would disown me!"

What really surprised Dylan was how much Mrs. Swann knew about the Seattle Seahawks. She was an avid fan. He didn't know old ladies could be so with it.

When they got to church, he walked in with her. She had found out his plans for college included the School of Pharmacy at the University of Washington, SO now she had switched the conversation to talk about the Huskies' chances to make the Rosebowl next season. It turned out her nephew was a chemistry professor there. She wanted Dylan to look him up and show him his Trans Am.

"He'd love it!" she said.

When he put his love offering in the collection basket, he blushed. He'd written "drove elderly woman to church" on the paper heart. She didn't really seem so old.

Later when he dropped her off, she told him to wait a minute. She scooted into her house and came back with a bag of homemade chocolate chip cookies. "For later," she said with a wink.

Dylan thanked her enthusiastically and said without thinking, "Same time, next week?"

He hadn't meant to make this a regular thing, but he knew now it would be. \square



THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

- 1. Go out of your way to talk to a person whom very few people like.
- 2. Volunteer to help with a Sunday school activity.
- 3. Invite a family to your home for a meal.
- 4. Cruise the mall with your youth group. Look for opportunities to witness, to share your faith.
- 5. Share your copy of *Lighted Pathway* with a teen friend.
- 6. Write a letter to a missionary.
- 7. Determine to read a portion of the Bible every day.
- 8. Attend a youth camp.
- 9. Volunteer to run an errand for your pastor.
- 10. Thank God for helping you during the past school term.
- 11. Visit a shut-in.
- 12. Offer to take some unchurched neighborhood kids to an amusement park on Saturday if they'll go to Sunday school and church with you on Sunday.
- 13. Prepare a meal for someone who is ill.
- 14. Bring a friend to a youth activity.
- 15. Spend some time working on that difficult relationship.
- 16. Pray for the General Assembly; it will convene in Fort Worth in August.
 - 17. Take a needy child shopping.
 - 18. Make a study of the meaning of fasting.
 - 19. Help a neighbor mow his lawn.
 - 20. Send a card to someone you haven't seen in a while. □

PATIENCE

A LEARNED VIRTUE

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE, but not one that always comes easily. Everything in our world moves fast: we have fast-food restaurants, fast cars and fast answers to problems on 30-minute TV shows. From our earliest days we are taught instant gratification.

The problem is, life is full of situations we can't solve in a hurry. We can't control many circumstances, such as the long line in the grocery store or a rush-hour traffic jam.

While you may not list patience as one of your virtues, you can develop it.

- Some things are not worth getting upset over. A long line in McDonald's or a slow freight train you get stuck waiting for may be annoying at the time, but they are not earth-shattering events. Try not to blow them out of proportion. They really are insignificant bits of your life; getting steamed up won't make things go faster.
- Try to see things from the other person's point of view. Sometimes people irritate us or make us downright angry. Ask yourself, Why did they act that way? Are they ill? Are they hid-

KATRINA SIMS



From our earliest days we are taught instant gratification. . . .

ing a deep hurt? Did someone else irritate them? Maybe they are just naturally ornery people.

- Be persistent. Most things in life don't happen quickly. The ability to perform well in sports, good grades, musical talents and relationships all take time and effort. Often there'll be obstacles to overcome. If your goal is worth achieving, it will probably not happen suddenly or effortlessly.
- If failure to attain your goals causes you frustration and impatience, reevaluate your goals. Are they attainable? Are they worthy goals for a Christian teen? Self-centered goals or those that are unreasonably high need to be replaced.
- Patience comes easier with practice. Each day decide not to let the irritations in life make you impatient. Think of the oyster. When an irritating piece of sand gets inside the shell, the oyster coats it with layers of nacre, the substance that makes up the inner lining of the shell. Eventually, the grain of sand becomes a pearl.

When irritations come into your life, react with love, and let the love of God coat the irritation. \square

BibleStudy

RESENTMENT

PEPPERMINT PATTY, the persistent character from the *Peanuts* comic strip, is in top form. Exhibiting impressive architectural skill, she is constructing a magnificent sand castle on the beach. She labors over it, making sure every detail conforms to her high standards. Just as it is almost completed, an ocean wave rolls in and wipes out her masterpiece!

Patty is devastated. She sulks for several minutes, then asks Charlie Brown, "How do you get even with an ocean?"

Revenge rides shotgun in most of our lives. We can't wait to get even for the wrongs we perceive have been done to us. Sometimes the wrongs are real, sometimes they are imagined—but it makes no difference since we feel we *must* stand up for our rights. We can't let *them* run roughshod over us like that. We feel compelled to answer every offense done to us in kind.

The desire for revenge springs from feelings of resentment. Sometimes resentment results from misplaced ambitions. But the Bible says, "If you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil" (James 3:14*).



Look at the kind of people who are carriers of resentment:

- "The godless in heart harbor resentment" (Job 36:13).
- "A mocker resents correction" (Proverbs 15:12).
- "Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple" (Job 5:2).

On the other hand, "The Lord's servant . . . must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful" (2 Timothy 2:24).

Some even resent God. "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in" (Proverbs 3:11).

Remember Peppermint Patty when resentment begins to build and you feel like retaliating for something. It's like trying to get even with the ocean.

God can, however, roll back tides.

Resentment is wrong. It is a sin that breaks fellowship and destroys relationships. Resentment in a believer weakens the body of Christ and mars its testimony before the world.

Let's look at what the Bible says about harboring grudges.

* All Scripture in the Bible study from NIV.

Fighting the Ocean

LOOK IN THE WORD

Ephesians 4:29-32

VERSES 29, 30

Verse 29a. Explain how your "talk" reveals the person you really are.
What is an example of unwholesome talk?
Verse 29b. Write down two ways this verse says your wholesome talk can help others.
1.
2
2.
Verse 30. Talking about difficulties and defeats rather than accomplishments and victories grieves the Holy Spirit. Why do you think this is true?

BibleStudy

VERSE 31: Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Word	Meaning	How I've seen it work
Bitterness	The Greek <i>pikria</i> reflects a brooding, grudge-filled attitude. It is a spirit of irritability, a perpetual animosity. It harbors resentment and keeps score of wrongs.	
Rage	The Greek thymos has to do with wild rage, the passion of the moment. It is uncontrolled frustration, a word for "flying off the handle."	
Anger	The Greek orge depicts unex- pressed resentment; an internal smoldering; a subtle, yet deep, feeling.	
Brawling	The Greek <i>krauge</i> means shouting, brawling, a public outcry of strife. This kind of open outburst indicates the person has lost control.	
Slander	The Greek blasphemia is an ongoing defamation of someone, rising from a bitter heart.	
Malice	The Greek <i>kaki</i> a indicates a bad feeling. It is a general term for the evil that is the root of all vices.	

BibleStudy



- 1. Eliminate any judgmental attitude you may have toward others. "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:1-3).
- 2. Show kindness in all your actions. "Be kind . . . to one another" (Ephesians 4:32).
- 3. Try to see the cause of the irritation from your adversary's viewpoint. "Be . . . compassionate to one another" (Ephesians 4:32).
- 4. Don't keep score. Love "is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13:5).
- 5. Pray for forgiveness and believe in the forgiveness of God. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
- 6. Forgive the person who has wronged you. "Forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).
- 7. Decide that you are bigger than any offense anyone can commit against you. "Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble" (Psalm 119:165).

Will My Parents and I Understand Each Other?



propped on the coffee table.

Are your parents real? You'd better believe they are! You can feel their presence at Hardee's or on the fifth row of bleachers or while cruising the mall. You wonder about these strange people who still want to hug you and call you "baby," yet sometimes blink back a tear when they are caught looking at you.

The '80s are a fantastic time to be alive for Mom and Dad! Credit card bills. Payment books. Second mortgages. Grocery coupons. A looming national deficit, the distant thunder of recession. Kids to clothe, allowances to dispense, spiritual training to give. Most of all, the big "uh-oh!." You know, "I'm the parent of a teenager!"

How do they see us?

They hear our music. They see our baggy socks, striped socks, crazy socks, one sock and no socks. They hear us crying "Please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, l'Il just die if I don't get to go! The tickets are only \$24.50!"

Parents fret about closed doors, no breakfast, huge suppers and stone-washed wardrobes. They envy our peculiar ability to talk on the phone, do homework, listen to a jam box, watch T.V. and roll our hair at the same time. They are puzzled because we never seem to hear what they say. Ever so often they need us to hug them while they call us "baby."

Mr. or Miss Teenager, if you have a parent or parents or guardian who loves you, you are rich beyond your wildest dreams. They are always there, and you can "feel" their presence because to them you are the constant object of their love and thoughts. Sure, they sometimes seem goofy and old-fash-

ioned. Indeed, they worry too much. Their ability to ask questions reminds you at times of a prosecuting attorney; at other times, of your three-year-old brother.

But they are crazy about you. They were once teenagers, as wild as that may seem. They remember the pitfalls, the temptations, the near-misses and their use of poor judgment. As they remember themselves, they worry about you.

imes have changed. So has the culture. But love between parents and teens can be better than ever. . . .

Parents are under an enormous strain in today's world. Taxes, bills, monetary obligations and the happiness and well-being of their family are burdens of great proportions. Being human (no, they are not aliens from an uncharted planet), they sometimes get frustrated with it all. In a crisis their actions and responses to your needs or questions may come out strong. Don't judge them entirely on those moments. Try to see the whole picture and what they have to face each day.

They do love you! How silly we would be to think that love, the most powerful substance in the universe, could be wiped out by a sharp response or a moment of frayed nerves. Mom and Dad may have their weird moments, but to them, you're still it.

Never forget that the first commandment of God in the Bible that has a promise with it said to "honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long" (Exodus 20:12). Paul said that for children to obey their Christian parents is right (see Ephesians 6:1). God made you unique and special, and then gave you to unique and special people to be loved.

This article is two-way. So do me a favor. Give this article to your parents to read. This next section is for them.

Mr. and Mrs. Parent, you have been given a treasure beyond value—a teenager. This teen treasure is delicate, growing, and in the process of changing so fast you can't believe your eyes and ears from one day to the next. Teenagers' minds are full of questions they want answered. Patience is a virtue not yet bestowed on them. Caution has not yet arrived.

And yes, you're right, they are Satan's number one target. But listen, what you taught them about right and wrong, kindness and principle, love and hate, and abstinence from the bad is still there. It goes with them everywhere they go. Just don't quit communicating.

Be their friend, but never quit being their parent. Your teenager is still your responsibility. Remember how God the Father is patient with you and isn't afraid to talk to you about everything (even you-know-what). So try to be the kind of parent He is.

Can teens and parents ever understand each other? Do they have to? The times have changed. So has the culture. But love between parents and their teenagers can be better than ever.

LL OF US NEED the Lord's direction and guidance in our lives. Throughout history this has been so. In the New Testament, God

so. In the New Testament, God spoke to the Apostle Paul through a dream. Paul's obedient response to that dream literally changed the course of the gospel.

It is no secret that the decisions we make today will shape our lives and the lives of others in the future. Therefore, the issue of finding divine direction and guidance is worth exploring.

Many people in Bible times received direction from God through dreams, visions and other spectacular means. But does God still work that way in 1988?

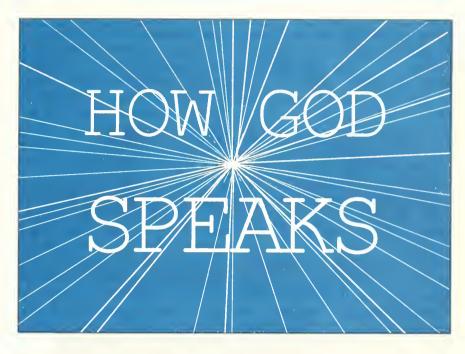
He can if He chooses. Our God is well able to reach beyond the natural and perform the supernatural. Many times, however, He may choose to direct us in less spectacular ways.

In my own life I have never had a "burning bush" experience, nor have I heard God speak to me in an audible voice. Several times when I have been seeking God for direction and was at a point of frustration, distress or impatience, I have been tempted to ask God to give me a vision or at least something tangible to hold on to so that I could know God was speaking.

He has guided me. He guides me now. By what means does He guide?

Through Daily Communion

God guides us through our daily communion with Him. We live in a busy society where it is difficult to break away from the pace and get alone with God. It is vital, however, that



we do this. Jesus responded to His need for divine communion by going up into a mountain to pray (Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:45, 46).

Through *prayer* we come to understand the will of God for our lives. We are drawn close to God's heart and are then able to hear the beat of His heart for our individual lives. We enter into God's presence. When this happens our fears and doubts about the future subside and our faith in God increases.

In prayer God adjusts our spiritual vision. Many times our decisions about where we should go or what we should do are influenced by our own desires and wants. We look at material gain, position or fame. Yet, God knows the only true way to happiness and fulfillment in this life. The answer is found in Jesus' statement, "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 10:39). By dying to ourselves and living unto Him we find true happiness.

In prayer we are more sensitive to His will. We also are able

Our God is able to reach beyond the natural and perform the supernatural. . . .

TODD E. HAFNER

to accept His will. As Jesus cried in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Father . . . not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42), so our will is conformed to His will.

Daily communion with God involves Bible study. Often when we are searching for direction, we begin to feel we are the only person that has ever grappled with God's will. However, through Bible study we are encouraged when we see that many of the great men and women of Scripture struggled with God's direction. We also become aware of how they responded and what motivated them. This is helpful to us in making the proper decision about our future.

Through Other Christians

God uses other Christians to direct us. In September 1982 I was at a point in my life where I needed direction from the Lord. I was only a few weeks away from completing a oneyear residency at a Church of God-sponsored drug and alcohol rehabilitation program called Peniel Ministries. Making the proper decision about where I would go from there was extremely important. The wrong decision would draw me back into a life of drugs and loose living.

Thank the Lord He placed in my life several caring people, particularly Harold and Marion Spellman, the directors of Peniel Ministries. They showed concern about my continued success after my completion of the program. They prayed with me and imparted wise counsel to me that helped in making my decisions.

It is important for each of us to find at least one person who is spiritually mature and shows concern for our continued growth. Many great men and women of God who have impacted their world for Jesus Christ had a person to whom they looked for wise counsel and advice. Timothy had the Apostle Paul as his spiritual father. Joshua spent many years as an assistant to Moses before he himself was used of God to lead Israel.

God places individuals in our lives who have gone before us and who are able to help us avoid some of life's pitfalls.

If you are at a crossroads in your life, attempting to make the proper decision, remember this: The decision is ultimately yours! Yet the Lord Jesus Christ is wanting to play a key role in your decision. Allow Him to speak to you through prayer, the Word and other Christians. Respond in obedience. You will find that He will never lead you astray.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths (Proverbs 3:5, 6). □

A WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

THERE ARE TIMES when God may use another Christian to give us a divinely inspired word about His plan for us individually. Often these experiences are truly God speaking to us. There are other times, however, when a well-meaning Christian's "word of knowledge" can mislead us.

The word of knowledge is a gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8). Like all gifts, it must be properly used.

An erroneous "word" can breed confusion in our minds about what God's purpose is for our lives. This does not discredit the gift; it only helps us realize our need for biblical wisdom in the manifestation of all the gifts. Those of us who exercise the gift of the word of knowledge must be sensitive to the Spirit of God. We must never give a

"word" to someone unless it is truly motivated and directed by the Spirit of God. Here are some important guidelines for receiving a "word of knowledge" from someone else.

- 1. God usually uses the gift of the word of knowledge to confirm what He has already been dealing with us about. An example is found in Acts 9.
- 2. When someone gives you a word of knowledge and God has not been dealing with you previously about the matter, it is important to seek the Lord regarding the truth of the "word."
- 3. We should ask God to confirm the "word of knowledge" given. By "the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established" (Matthew 18:16). □

CARLA McDANIEL, Minot, N.D. excels in many areas. The most important thing in her life, however, is her relationship with Jesus. As a result, Carla is deeply involved in the ministry of the West Minot Church of God.

Carla represented the city of Minot in the Miss North Dakota Teen Lovely Lady Competition. Winners were selected on the basis of general appearance, evening gown and talent. She received the Leadership Award and sang "The Runner" for the talent competition. Carla also competed in the North Dakota Junior Miss Competition.

At West Minot, Carla sings with the Voices of Praise Teen Choir, a youth ensemble, and performs with the youth drama team, the Omega Players.

Music is an important part of Carla's day. She enjoys listening to her favorite music group, Mylon LeFevre and Broken Heart. Her favorite song is also by them—"Love God, Hate Sin."

Five feet two inches tall, the blue-eyed Carla says her favorite food is macaroni and cheese. She dislikes squash, okra and oysters.

Carla is the daughter of Carl and Beverly McDaniel of Minot.

When asked what Christ means to her, Carla replied, "I can trust Him when I can't trust anyone else." Her life reflects her Christian testimony. She is a spiritual leader in the local youth group.

Carla dislikes people wearing two faces. It is important to her to be consistent in her walk with Christ. She plans to attend Minot State University after graduation and major in counseling.

CARLA McDANIEL LOVELY CHRISTIAN

Carla is among the best & brightest of all Church of God youth. . . .



DEREK WILSON

I HONOR MY FATHER

KAREN CROSBY

Last Father's Day, 13-year-old Karen Crosby gave this tribute to her stepfather during morning worship at the Big Oaks Church of God, Baxley, Ga. Pastor Virginia Herrington says, "There was not a dry eye in the building." We dedicate Karen's tribute to all teens with stepparents.

I KNOW WHAT IT IS like to have a father today, but not one tomorrow. I've been there.

When I was 3 years old, my daddy decided he didn't want to live with us anymore. I remember asking him as he was leaving to please stay with me, Mama and Wayne. But he pushed me aside and went out the door. This was a hurt I thought I would never outlive. If God had taken him from us in death, I think it would have been easier to accept. It hurts to feel rejected. I was so small I didn't understand everything going on, only that my daddy wasn't coming home anymore.

After our home was torn

apart, he would come get Wayne and me to go stay at his house. Although he was there, it was still not home. Finally there came a time when I didn't care to go anymore.

Mama, Wayne and I were very lonely. Our home was not a home; it was just a house—because we didn't have a daddy to stay with us. We would pray that somehow, someway, he would come back.

But he never did.

God heard our prayers and began working things out. We couldn't see Him, but He was there with us all the time. While we were praying here in Baxley, Ga., for a daddy, a Christian man in Chicago was praying for God's will in his life. This man, Ralph Steger, moved south and went to work where my mother was working at ERO Manufacturing Company. They met each other and began dating.

On one of their first dates, they were to take Wayne and me with them to the Pizza Hut in Alma. In the car I decided I would sit in the front seat. Mama told me to stay in the back with Wayne. But not me; I was going to get in the front anyway. After she told me no several times, I began to cry and would not hush.

Ralph asked me several times to sit down and be quiet, but I wouldn't. Finally he said, "If you don't sit down and be quiet, we're going to turn around and go back home." Still I kept crying and would not sit down. I thought I would get my way.

Know what he did? He didn't scream or get upset. He didn't even get mad. He just turned around and took us back home without pizza. He let me know what was what, and put me in my place to start with. Since my daddy had left, Wayne and I had been petted and humored by everyone. But this was the breaking point for me. Just because Mama had two small spoiled children didn't stop this man from coming to see her. God still had everything under control; He was giving Ralph love, patience and understanding.

On June 26, 1981, Ralph Steger and Mama were married. He assumed the responsibilities of being a father to Wayne and me. He did not have any children, so this was a big step for him—he got a wife and a ready-made family. Our house once again became a home because we now had a father. He accepted us as if we were his own. He has always considered us, never leaving us

out. He has loved our mother and us like we were meant to be loved.

On May 13, 1984, God sent a bundle of joy to our home-a sister, Marissa. She is Daddy's only birth child. She has made our home more alive than ever. Yet, Daddy has never acted partial toward her. It is said that some fathers show favor to their blood children. Not so at our home. Wavne and I have been treated like we were treated before Marissa came along. Our names have not been changed, but Daddy has adopted us into his family just like God adopts us into His family when we become a Christian. He is always loving and forgiving us, never putting us down, and seeing through our faults like only God and parents can.

Daddy has never been thought of as a stepfather or Marissa as a half sister. He's our

sister.

daddy, she's our

We are

"one happy family"! Daddy has always been there when we needed something. Most of the time all we have to do is ask, and we receive. Isn't that just like our heavenly Father? My father has made our house a happy home. He cares for his family. He takes us to church and sets an example before us. For this I am thankful.

To God I am thankful for hearing and answering prayer. He knew what we needed, when we needed it. He took what we thought was a disaster and made something beautiful from it.

To my daddy I want to say, "I love you. I am glad you are my father. I think you are the greatest and wish everyone had a father like you."

To the rest of us I want to encourage you to honor your father on Father's Day. Show

him love and respect like God has shown us.



The Steger family: Karen, Ralph, Marissa, Lucy and Wayne

N HIGH SCHOOL I dreaded missions services and became frightened when the pastor preached about "the *M* word."

I thought a missionary was a guy who wore a khaki outfit and carried a Bible in one hand and a machete in the other. He hacked his way through the brush until he came upon the godless heathen, at which point he would announce, "Jesus saves!" At this first meeting, he was either accepted by the natives or he became their dinner.

With this archaic view of missions, I was afraid God was going to call me to be a missionary, which meant I would have to buy a khaki suit and a machete and catch the next plane for places unknown. In college, several of my friends were afraid to draw close to God because they feared He would call them to the mission field.

This view, of course, is old-fashioned and out-of-date.

In reality God intends for every Christian to be a missionary because missionaries are those who believe the Bible commands them to spread the gospel everywhere. When you realize this, you begin to understand that God wants you to be a missionary, right now!

RECOGNIZE YOUR MISSION FIELDS

Your family is the first and foremost mission field. Almost everyone has family members who are unsaved. Have you ever thought that you could be a missionary to your family? A lot of the time, older family members who are unsaved are turned off and hardened when other adults continually nag them to get saved. They may



UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

The mere mention of missions terrified Tom. . . .

THOMAS J. OWENS

never respond to that kind of witnessing, but they might respond to you. You offer a fresh perspective that might cause your relative to see Jesus in a different light.

Believe it or not, your church is also a mission field. Most adults don't like to admit it, but a large number of the kids in Church of God youth groups are unsaved. Besides this, another group of kids are saved but not fully dedicated to God. Today, the Church of God needs young people who are dedicated to Christ and will persuade other church youth to give themselves fully to Him. Your church may be a ripe mission field.

The third mission field is an one-your school. obvious Whether you go to high school or college, whether a Christian school or secular one, chances are most of the people in your school need Jesus. God wants you to be a missionary to unsaved people in your school. Some say, "High school kids are too hard to witness to. Maybe they'll get saved after they graduate." Unfortunately, millions of young people who are in high school and college never do. Committed Christians must realize they have to be missionaries to their schools.

The fourth mission field available to you is the place you work. In high school, I worked for eight months at a fast-food restaurant on the night crew. Some of my best memories come from that job. I didn't enjoy the work much, but I made some great friends among the other crew members. We became so close we were like family. My only regret is that I did not recognize my workplace as a mission field. I failed to use the many opportunities I was aiven to witness. If your

. . . Missionaries are those who believe the Bible commands them to spread the Gospel everywhere.

workplace is anything like mine was, you have made many new friends who are not Christians. If you can see it, a mission field is staring you in the face.

ASK GOD FOR OPPORTUNITIES

When you realize where the mission field really is, God will open doors for ministry. When the subject of personal witnessing comes up in our youth group, someone invariably asks, "I don't feel comfortable just going up to someone and blurting, 'Do you know Jesus?' How do you witness to people without being obnoxious?"

I agree that it's hard to bring up Christ in a conversation centered on the opposite sex, the last exam or what the customer wants on his Big Mac. Instead of forcing the subject in every conversation, ask God to "open the doors of ministry" and give you opportunities to witness. If vou seriously ask God to send people your way who are ready to hear the gospel, He will. Your iob is to be alert in conversations with unsaved friends. When the other guy or girl gives you a chance, don't pass it up.

God will open the doors for you, but *you* must walk through.

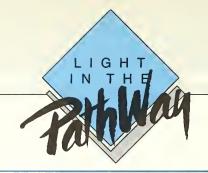
DEDICATE YOURSELF TO BEING A WITNESS

If we're going to live like Jesus wants us to, we don't really have a choice about witnessing. He expects us to live our lives differently than those around us. He also expects us to share the gospel whenever we have the chance.

I was involved with Pioneers for Christ in college. When I witnessed, I would get a strange feeling in the pit of my stomach, a weird kind of excitement. It never failed. Maybe the excitement I felt was the spiritual battle going on for the soul of the person I was witnessing to. On the surface, witnessing can seem fruitless. Occasionally you see instant results, when the person is ready to accept the gospel. At other times, the person may turn you down flat. The important point to remember, however, is that you are doing God's will in spreading the gospel. And that is never boring.

Knowing you are working for God and attacking the strongholds of Satan makes your life richer and helps you to grow spiritually.

Now that you've decided to become a missionary, remember the three steps in "local missions" work. First, identify the mission fields open to youhome, church, school and work. Second, ask God to give you opportunities to witness for Him, and be ready for them! Finally, dedicate your life to being a witness for Christ whenever and wherever He wants. Who knows? Maybe someday God will call you to a foreign mission field, but you can be a missionary right now, without having to leave your neighborhood.



WINNING OVER WORMWOOD

MARCUS V. HAND

IN C.S. LEWIS' DELIGHTFUL and provocative book *The Screwtape Letters*, Screwtape is the name of the major devil commissioned to tempt us. The lesser devil is Wormwood, which means bitterness.

Bitterness and resentment are twin evils the Pentecostal youth has to guard against. Here are some practical steps you can take in handling the sour situations, and people, causing resentment and bitterness in you.

Pray every day for the person you resent. Thinking of one who has caused you distress makes prayer time awkward at first. But as you focus on the cause of your resentment and genuinely ask God to bless the person's work, family, plans, desires and hurts, you will find resentment melting away.

Sincerely praise the person who has hurt you. You will have to make a conscious effort to achieve this step. Contact the person by telephone, letter or personal visit, and compliment him or her about a talent, achievement or trait.

Do something helpful for your adversary. Remember, you are going beyond merely assisting someone who plots against you. You are working on your own attitude. You are attacking the feelings of resentment in your own heart.

If your resentment is turned toward a particular situation rather than a person, evaluate the situation and decide on a course of action. You may be able to improve or alter things. If you cannot do anything about the situation, perhaps it's time for you to move on to something else. If you cannot do anything about the situation and cannot leave, change your attitude toward the situation.

Remind yourself that you are not responsible for the actions of another. Frustration and resentment sometimes come because we know the person responsible is living in sin... or getting undeserved praise... or is egotistical or boastful... or has a cutting tongue rather than a wholesome spirit. While we must exhibit love and bear one another's burdens, we cannot be responsible for another's behavior.

Memorize Ephesians 4:31, 32—"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you."

Repeat it every morning when you get up.



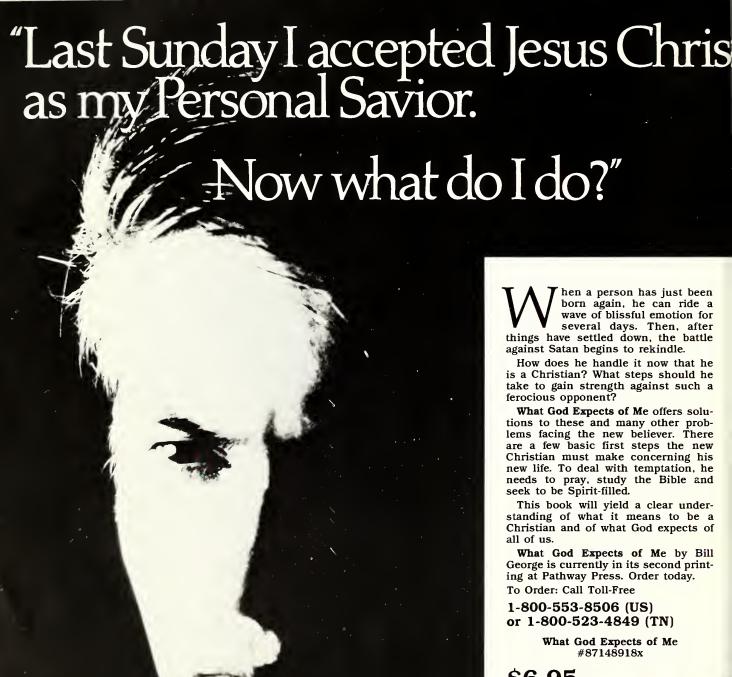
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JULY 1988

VOLUME 59, NO. 7

The cost of good reading goes up.
Several years have passed with 10 increases in paper costs since our last subscription price increase. Postal rates have ballooned. Beginning next month Lighted Pathway will cost more. Current subscriptions will not be affected, but renewals after Aug. 1 will. Still, we believe we're worth it. Lighted Pathway



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Star Student for the Lord

CHRISTINA STEWART was chosen star student at the Lincoln County Ga. High School. She has maintained a perfect 4.0 average during her entire high school career and scored over 1400 on her Scholastic Aptitude Test.

Miss Stewart was a member of the school debate team, the state champion literary team, the Beta Club, and Arrive Alive program. Other activities include aviation pilot training and karate. She has been awarded a four-year scholarship to the University of Georgia where she will major in art. She plans to become an art therapist.

Christina is a member of the Lincolnton Church of God and is truly a blessing to the congregation.

Although her schedule keeps her busy, she always has time to be about the Father's business. She previously taught the primaries and now works with the teen class. She is always willing and ready to give her talents to further God's kingdom.

Christina Stewart is surely a star student for the Lord. □

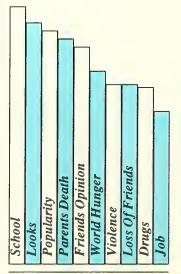
-Pastor Mary Godbee



What! Me Worried?

EIGHT THOUSAND students and their parents, polled by the Search Institute during the school year, were asked to list the things that caused them to worry. Here are some results:

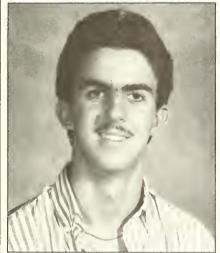
- 56 percent said, "My school performance."
 - 53 percent said, "My looks."
- 48 percent said, "How well others like me."
- 47 percent said, "One of my parents might die."
- 45 percent said, "How my friends treat me."
- 38 percent said, "Hunger and poverty in America."
- 36 percent said, "Violence in America."
- 36 percent said, "Losing my best friend."
- 35 percent said, "Drugs and drinking around me."
- 30 percent said, "I might not get a good job." □



Philip Sustar

LAST WINTER some of the young people from the Linwood Church in Gastonia, N.C., left home for Gatlinburg, Tenn., to attend the Smoky Mountain Winterfest youth group retreat. En route they arrived at the scene of an automobile accident soon after it happened.

Philip Sustar, a 16-year-old, from the Linwood youth group, stayed



Philip Sustar

with the injured couple and ministered to them until the ambulance arrived.

The injured man's mother later wrote Philip, thanking him. Here is a portion of her letter:

"I am writing to say how much I appreciate what you did to comfort my son and daughter-in-law who were in the wreck. They told me you stayed with them and prayed and told my daughter-in-law she would live. Her neck was broken, but she is out of intensive care now and doing good.

"My son had 500 stitches. He doesn't remember much after the wreck, but he does remember you. He said you were the calmest, most kind person he had ever seen. You were a great comfort to his wife, talking to her and praying with them. He said you probably saved her life by keeping her calm until the ambulance got there.

"I thank the Lord for letting them live and for giving them another chance. They are not Christians."



Singles and Money

HOW DO young single Americans spend their money? According to a recent survey here are some annual averages. Notice that the list does *not* include money given to God's work.

	MEN	WOMEN
Housing	\$2,355	\$2,243
Transportation	2,335	1,927
Food	1,711	1,224
Clothes	558	751
Entertainment	688	409
Personal		
insurance	470	352
Future retirement	446	334
Health care	242	225
	-	-USA Today

Why Teens Die

TEENAGERS TODAY are as likely to die before reaching their 20s as they were in the 1940s and 1950s. Only the causes of death and disability have changed dramatically, shifting from traditional medical problems to health effects stemming more from social causes.

The primary causes of adolescent death are now accidents, suicides,

homicides, substance abuse, pregnancy, venereal disease, and physical and sexual abuse. Indeed, 77 percent of deaths among 15- to 24-year-olds are now attributed to accident, suicide and homicide. From 1950 to 1980, deaths from homicide rose fourfold and suicides fivefold in this age group.

-The New York Times





HAVE
YOU
TRIED
THE
NEW
EXCLUSIVE
HOUTH
TALKLINE

Each month *Lighted Pathway* publishes a monthly topic or survey question. When you call YOUTH TALKLINE follow this procedure:

- 1. Dial the YOUTH TALKLINE number: 6154 SURVEY, or (615) 478-7839.
- 2. At the sound of the tone, speak up clearly.
- 3. Give your full name, age, city and state.
- 4. Respond to the topic of the month.

Lighted Pathway will endeavor to answer all your questions, either by correspondence or through an article in the magazine. If you wish a personal response, be sure to give your address on the YOUTH TALKLINE.

YOUTH TALKLINE SUBJECT:

I (like) (do not like) competitive sports because. . . .



I would like to say I love Lighted Pathway. It helps me a lot in my spiritual growth with the Lord. I would really like a pen pal.

The things I would like to do this summer is to be with my youth group and go to youth camp and worship the Lord. I plan to try not to get mixed up with other people who aren't saved. This year is my year to go off and preach the gospel. I love the Lord and really want to help people. I know the Lord will use me to help people to be saved. Thank you, *Lighted Pathway*, because you're a real blessing.

-Carolyn Harper
Age 15
2623 Sassett Rd.
Charleston Heights, SC 29418

I just wanted to say I really do appreciate the Youth Talkline, for letting young people speak out on how they feel. I read the articles; I really enjoy them. It's a blessing to see young people involved by getting out and working for God.

I would also like to correspond with other young people. \square

-Brenda Trent Age 21 Route 16, Box 2957 Lexington, NC 27292



ARE YOU READY FOR

FREEDOM?

TAMI FRAZIER

Continued from front page

Are you ready for freedom from your parents? Are you counting down the days until you move out? Are you looking for the day when your fairy godmother zaps you into full adulthood and you are instantly ready to face the freedom of living on your own?

Like a bird flown from its cage, you will be free from curfews, chores, telling Mom where you are going, asking for the car, and a hundred other things that cramp your style. When you have moved out, you can do what you want, go where you want, be with the people you want, when you want. You will be free from your family's rules and regulations.

Free, free, free! Freedom is exchanging your parents' restrictions and care of you for the heavy responsibility of caring for yourself. That implies many things. But remember that once you are living on your own, if you don't do it, nobody else will do it for you.

Imagine that you have moved into your own apartment or house. You learned early that the

greater a newspaper ad sounds, the more rundown the apartment is. Finally, you read the fine print and signed the papers. Then you paid the deposit, the first month's rent, and the utilities fee.

After moving in your belongings and rounding up some furniture, you are free! Free to cook, clean, get up, and arrive at work or classes on time. You are free to work. No one sits down and pays the bills that have your name on them. No one sets guidelines for the hours and the company you keep.

Finally, you have your own private piece of space. You can do anything you want. Or can you?

In order to pay the rent and utilities, you'll probably need a roommate's check to add to yours. Roommates require sensitive handling, because if you cannot get along and your roommate moves out or is tardy paying his or her share of the bills, you have to pay. Therefore, your roommate restricts your freedom.

Neighbors also restrict your doing whatever you want. In order to get along, you and your

Are you mature enough to make it on your on?

YES

NO

guests cannot disturb the neighbors. In addition, you have to work out the conflicts that arise between you and your roommate, or you and your neighbor. Freedom places the responsibility for smooth relationships on you.

Besides the responsibility of knowing "If I don't do it, nobody is going to do it," you must handle other responsibilities. They accumulate quickly when you leave home—responsibilities such as handling money and time, handling emergencies, maintaining a reputation and asking for help when you need it.

Handling money and time. When you are on your own, you have to earn the paycheck, budget the money and pay the bills that have your name on them. You have to pay rent, utilities, food, car payments, insurance payments. You find that if you splurge on clothes or engage in impulse buying, your checkbook may show negative amounts after you pay your bills.

"I'm responsible for every stinking penny," says a college student. On your own you are also responsible for every individual minute. No one is there to watch how you spend your time. You have to budget your time for work, sleep, household chores, friends and free time.

Maintaining your reputation. You have the freedom and responsibility to decide with whom to spend your time and where to go. You decide your dating guidelines, when to say goodbye to your date, who to invite into your apartment, which people to be seen with and where to be seen. You also make the decision to attend church regularly or drop out.

Handling emergencies and asking for help. Since you no longer are under the umbrella of your parents, you have to handle surprises that arise and decide when you need outside intervention. You decide when to go to the doctor or call an ambulance, when to call the landlord or utility company, when to take your car to the shop, and when to call the police.

Your present behavior indicates how you are likely to handle your freedom in the future. Here is a self-test to help you determine if you are ready to take the big plunge and go out on your own. Too many "no" answers may indicate you are not ready to handle the responsibilities of freedom.

ILO	,,,,	
		I can cook.
		I know where my money goes; it doesn't fall through my fingers.
		I budget my money and buy only what I need; I resist splurges and impulse buying.
		I balance my checkbook and usu- ally know my balance as I write checks instead of hoping I do not overspend.
		When I have a disagreement with a friend or neighbor, I do not vent my anger or frustration on him before hearing his side of the story.
		I can discuss a problem without raising my voice or crying.
		I can say good night to my friends, whether they are at my house or I am at theirs, early enough to get plenty of sleep and arrive at work on time the next morning.
		I refuse to meet questionable peo- ple alone in secluded areas or in my home.
		I say good night to my dates at the door.
		I call the landlord or utility com- pany immediately after some- thing breaks or malfunctions.
		I ask for help when something is broken or I need another per- son's perspective on a problem.
		I remain calm and think before acting, even when I think I smell smoke or hear strange noises in the night.
		I can decide myself whether to make a doctor's appointment, call an ambulance or the doctor.
		I am on time for my appoint- ments.
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Action

TRAVEL . . . NEW PEOPLE . . . new places. New friends in unfamiliar and unusual circumstances. Treasure . . . villains . . . unfriendly authorities and tight escapes. This is what adventure is all about.

And this is what Christ has called us to.

Early on, Jesus told His disciples He wanted them to go to different places, to meet new people, to share the treasure God had given man. Read the Book of Acts. See men and women whose lives make the movies pale by comparison. True discipleship action is non-stop adventure.

Somewhere between then and

now the Christian life has been painted as a wimpy existence. We have made it safer in human terms, but we've lost the vitality.

Perhaps you are willing to settle for the dull routine. Maybe that's how you want to live your life. You are willing to climb on the treadmill of a humdrum, middle-class existence and scramble to keep up with everybody else on your block. If that is your idea of life, don't read any further!

But if you are ready for a future that won't paint you into a corner, that won't permit you to sit and vegetate, then I have good news. The WEAC program is for you.

WEAC stands for World Evangelism Action Centers. We believe God has called us to break free from our fears and limitations and work for Him. Sometimes the action gets a little hot, the authorities a little hostile and the accommodations a bit Spartan; but this is the way the apostles lived.

Paul said, "I have learned to get along in tough circumstances, I have lived in palaces, I have gone hungry, and I have eaten the best" (Philippians 4:12, paraphrased). The story of his life sounds like an adventure movie—glamor one minute, roughing it the next. He could face all the excitement of the



Left: World Evangelism Action Volunteers (WEAVs) work with children.

Below: The Manila, Philippines, WEAC Center helped coordinate a charity surgical mission in February.

Right: Mark Morris, left, is coordinator of Manila WEAC.





Living in Christ

events and circumstances recorded in 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 because Christ strengthened him (Philippians 4:13).

WEAC sponsors centers located in the action spots of the world: Brazil, Philippines, Honduras and Miami. They are there for you. We believe Christ has called you to live out His adventure in your life, and we have programs to help you learn to be Christ's agent.

The meaning of 2 Corinthians 5:20 is this: We are agents for Christ, and God works through us to bring new contacts into the sphere of righteousness.

No agent ever goes into the field without training. Through rigorous preparation he learns to discipline himself, use the proper weapons, move without attracting the wrong kind of attention, make the contact and deliver the message. Christian agents need this kind of training, too; not just sitting and reading about it, but getting out and doing it.

At a WEAC center you will be under the tutelage of experienced agents. They will walk you through complex procedures and teach you what they know so that you will be better than they are.

Your life will expand in every dimension. Your physical endurance will be stretched. Your mental agility will be exercised. Your spiritual strength will be reinforced. You will live, work and play with others who are training for the same career. You will join the company of others whose lives are "action adventures" in every sense of the word.

Is your Christian life an adventure?

If you ask, "Is it supposed to be?" the answer is yes.

Plan now to join us. Begin to expect a life of adventure.

At WEAC, we act!

For information or application forms, write WEAC, P.O. Box 2430, Cleveland, TN 37311. □





Left: Sidewalk vendors on a downtown Manila street.

Below left: Performing meaningful tasks makes for exciting living at WEAC.

Yes. I am interested in making my life count for God. Please send me information on applying to				
☐ WEAC (World Evangelism Action Centers)				
☐ STEP (Summer mission teams)				
Name				
Address				
Age Telephone				
Send this form to: Youth Missions				
YWEA Coordinator				
P.O. Box 2430				
Cleveland, TN 37311				

Youth Activities

AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Aug. 1-6, 1988 Fort Worth, Texas

Activity	Date	Location	
Jubilation: A Family Concert	Aug. 1 7 - 9 p.m.	Arena at Torrence Convention Center	
Teen Talent Bible Teaching	Aug. 2 All day	Room 128	
Teen Talent Music	Aug. 2-6 Tuesday- Saturday	Theater	
Teen Talent Art and Writing	Aug. 2-6 Tuesday- Saturday	Back of South Bay Exhibit Building	
Teen Talent Bible Quizzing and Scripture Memorization	Aug. 2-6 Tuesday- Saturday	Room 120	
Teen Talent Drama	Aug. 3-6 Wednesday- Saturday	Room 128	
Hispanic Teen Talent	Aug. 3-5 Wednesday- Saturday	Room 262	
Youth Afterglow Concert	Aug. 4 10 p.m 12 midnight Thursday	Theater	
Youth Night Service	Aug. 5 7 p.m. Friday	Arena	
Hispanic Afterglow	Aug. 5 10 p.m 12 midnight Friday	Theater	
Single Adult Luncheon	Aug. 6 Noon	Times Square East Hilton Hotel	
Teen Talent Awards Festival	Aug. 6 8-10 p.m.	Arena	

SELF-IMAGE

ALICE IN WONDERLAND, only three inches tall, stood on tiptoe and stretched as high as she could to see on top of the large mushroom. In the scene from Lewis Carroll's timeless classic. Alice suddenly found herself looking into the face of a huge blue caterpillar.

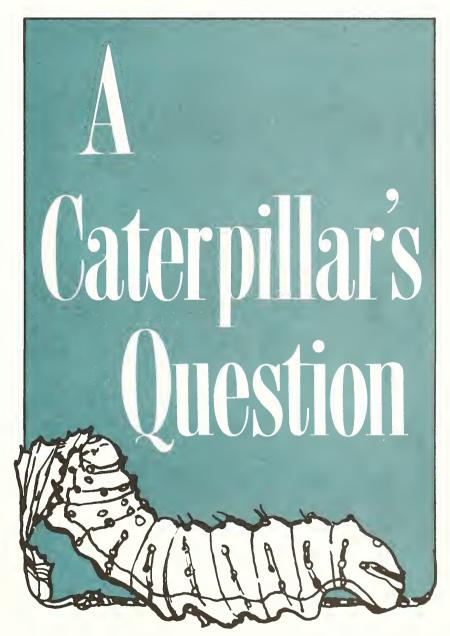
The many-footed larva lolling on the fungus stared back nonchalantly. With contempt in his voice, he asked, "Who are you?"

By this time Alice wasn't sure who she was. All she knew for sure was that she had stumbled down a rabbit hole into a strange and confusing world that seemed like a dream. In a single day she had zoomed up to more than nine feet tall, then, just as suddenly, shrunk down to three inches short. She attempted to explain what was happening to her but the crawly creature kept cutting her off.

"You!" the caterpillar demanded. "Who are you?"

Do you ever feel like Alice in Wonderland? Who are you anyway? Does your self-identity ever seem to be in question? Does the world seem topsyturvy, more confusing with each new adventure? Do reality and fantasy ever collide and seem to merge?

Most of us experience variations on these emotions, especially at this time in our life. We can feel like a giant and in the same day be cut down so small it seems everything towers above us.



The caterpillar's question is a good one. We need to ask it of ourselves: "Who am I?" For answers we will look to God's Word.

Jesus' journey to self-discovery and growth is described in Luke 2:52. It took Him down physical, intellectual, social and spiritual paths. Let's follow His example.



Bible Study

1. Read Ephesians 2:10. God sees you as	7. Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.8. Turn to Philippians 2:3, 4. What does this and the property and reper accidental relationships?
2. Because of this, He (is) (is not) interested in your growth and development. (Circle the proper response.)	say about you and your social relationships?
3. Read <i>Psalm 139:14-18</i> . How do you think God feels about your physical features?	
	9. Read 1 Corinthians 10:24. List some steps you can take to improve your relationships with your friends.
4. After reading <i>Matthew 10:29-31</i> , write down some of the particular things about your physical body you think God is interested in.	
5. Read Matthew 6:27. What parts of you can you physically not change?	10. According to 2 Timothy 1:7, what kind of mind has God given the Christian?
	12. List some ways you can develop your intellect for the Lord:
6. What parts of your physical makeup can you change?	

BibleStudy

STEPS TO FINDING YOURSELF IN GOD

1. Do you know when you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?
2. Write down the date (or your age when you became a Christian).
3. Write down the place.
4. What does Romans 5:12 say about the need for salvation?
5. What does God promise to do in 1 John 1:9?
6. According to this verse, what do you have to do to obtain God's forgiveness?
7. Read Jeremiah 29:13. What do you have to do to find God and grow in Him?
8. List some ways you are seeking God.

AVE YOU EVER WON an award? There are awards for perfect attendance, academics, musical accomplishments and other achievements.

You can win awards in your Christian life, too. These are crowns you earn here on earth but don't receive until you get to heaven.

First Corinthians 3 tells us every Christian can choose to build with either wood, hay and stubble, which will be burned, or with gold, silver and precious stones. This doesn't mean we are really building physical buildings; it is talking about things we do in our Christian life. Some things we do are worthless and won't count once we get to heaven. But the things we do for God will last.

The Bible mentions five crowns we can earn: the crown of life, an incorruptible crown, a crown of rejoicing, a crown of righteousness and a crown of glory.

The crown of life is awarded to Christians who overcome temptation and endure trials. "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" (James 1:12). Our love for God keeps us from doing what is wrong. Not all Christians will receive this crown, only those who are faithful to the end (Revelation 2:10).

The incorruptible crown (1 Corinthians 9:25) is compared, by Paul, to the ancient Greek olympics. Only Greek citizens could compete in the games, and only citizens of heaven can "compete" for this crown. Some requirements are self-denial (Hebrews 12:1), eyes focused on the Lord (Hebrews 12:2), depend-

ing on strength from the Lord (Ephesians 6:10-18), putting all on the altar (Romans 12:1, 2) and forsaking things that hinder our Christian life (Hebrews 11:24, 25).

The crown of rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20) is also called the soulwinner's crown. One of the greatest privileges we can have as a Christian is to lead another person to the Lord. Even young Christians can tell others about Jesus. Perhaps some of your friends are not Christians and you can show them how to accept Christ as their Savior. Our degree of joy in heaven is determined by the souls we win on earth.

The *crown* of *righteousness* (2 Timothy 4:5-8) is awarded to

those who look forward to the second coming of Christ. If we believe that one day we will see Christ, it will change how we live our life each day. The Bible says if we believe that we will see Christ, we will purify ourselves.

The *crown* of *glory* (1 Peter 5:2-4) is for pastors called by God. They have remained faithful, cared for their congregation, and helped to reprove, rebuke and edify Christians.

These are the five crowns a Christian can receive. Are you living for Christ and doing things that will last? Or are you spending your time on worthless things that won't last? We can build with wood, hay and stubble or with gold and precious stones. \square

KATRINA SIMS KATRINA SIMS KATRINA SIMS





And what about their timing? Why are they never there when you want them and always underfoot, trying to "relate," when you don't?

The answer lies in one word

TRANSITION

Theirs and yours!

You're leaving childhood and making the transition into adulthood. Every week you're slightly different from who you were the week before. And it's not always consistent—one day you may feel like taking on the world, and the next you may just want to crawl into Mama's lap and have a good cry. And to top it off, you're now walking around in an adult body with an adult intellect but still having to deal with semiadult emotions.

It's enough to make a person schizoid. In fact, you are . . . a little. But that's only normal. It comes with *transition*.

So it's little wonder your folks are neurotic—I mean, they're never quite sure who they're going to be dealing with. The first 12 years you were a piece of cake; changes came, but they came slowly and somewhat predictably. But now . . . let's see, it's Tuesday; I wonder who Julie's going to be today.

Not only are your parents dealing with your transitions, but they've got their own set of changes to worry about. What are they going to do when you're out of the nest? How will they relate to each other? And what about getting old? Their days of changing the world or reaching all their goals are quickly coming to an end. And just around the corner lurks the possibility of (gulp) . . . grand-parenthood.

BILL MYERS

All this to say that these few years may be a little turbulent. Relationships with your parents may get a little bumpy. But if you know what to expect and follow four common-sense principles, there's no reason you can't enjoy the ride.

1. UNDERSTAND YOUR PAR-ENTS. The key to coexisting with anybody is to try to understand where they're coming from, to try to "walk a mile in their shoes." Parents with teens are going through almost as many pressures as their kids are, and the best way to get along with them is to understand them.

The president of your dad's company chews out your dad's boss. The boss lays in to your dad. Your dad explodes at your mom. Your little brother throws himself down the stairs and your mother lays in to you. She holds you entirely responsible, making it sound like you rigged the whole thing, while at the same time threatening to ground you for life!

Now, this isn't exactly fair. And when things cool down, it wouldn't hurt to bring it up. But until then, don't take it personally. Sometimes the world can be a pressure cooker; and instead of channeling their anger and frustration in the proper direction, parents will occasionally dump it on those they're closest to.

Again, it doesn't make it right, but understanding that your folks are out there getting clobbered by the world may help you understand where they're coming from. Realize that they don't wake up in the morning and say, "Oh boy, it's Thursday—this is the day I get to bum out Billy."

Like everyone else, parents usually try to be rational human beings. It's just that circumstances sometimes make that nearly impossible.

2. FORGIVE YOUR PAR-ENTS. You don't have to figure out why a person behaves the way he does to forgive him. Jesus did not say, "Forgive people only if you can understand why they're doing what they're doing." He said flat out, "Forgive." Period. End of discussion.

When parents are unreasonable, when you're accused of something you're totally innocent of, when a brother or sister is obviously getting a better break, when you're telling the absolute truth and no one believes you, don't hold it in, and don't hold a grudge.

The person who harbors a grudge is really the one who continues to suffer. If you're being shafted, wait until tempers cool, and in a day or week or month (maybe even after you've served your sentence and have nothing to gain), bring up the subject again. Let them know that they really were wrong, that it hurt you, and that you've forgiven them.

Don't just let it pass. It must be dealt with. You'll be surprised at what that sort of *gen*tle honesty will do for you, for your relationship and for their future decisions about you.

3. HONOR YOUR PARENTS.

When we're little tykes, we're absolutely positive our parents can do no wrong. I mean, they're practically the fourth part of the Trinity. But as we grow, we start to see that they actually do make mistakes. Their humanness starts to show more and more, and our contempt starts to rise. This, coupled with the fact that we're starting to evaluate and solve situations more independently, may cause us to wonder if they'll ever be right again.

Fortunately (for both sides) this only lasts a few years, and eventually we realize that just because their way of solving a problem is different doesn't necessarily make it wrong. Mark Twain said something like "When I was 15, I was appalled at how stupid my father was. But by the time I turned 21, I was amazed at how much the old man had learned in six years!"

God has a lot of thoughts about how we should respond to our parents. And He doesn't pull any punches: "Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death" (Exodus 21:17). In fact, of all Ten Commandments, only one promises us something for obeying: "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long (Exodus 20:12, *NIV*).

It doesn't take a nuclear scientist to figure out there's more to honoring than just obeying. We've all been in positions where we go ahead and do something they say, but every step, movement and thought is screaming our real attitude of "contempt, contempt,"

If you're having a hard time honoring your parents, ask the Lord for help. (He doesn't give us a command without supplying the power to follow it.) Look for opportunities to show that honor. If necessary, force yourself to show it. Try to realize that even though you may disagree with them, they've still got a few decades of experience on you, and maybe, just maybe, there is some hidden wisdom to go along with it.

One last note on honoring: Scripture says, "A man reaps what he sows" (Galatians 6:7, NIV). Honoring becomes a cycle. The more you give, the more you eventually receive. So if you want honor and respect from your parents, start priming the pump. Eventually it'll come back to you "pressed down, shaken together and running over" (Luke 6:38, NIV).



4. COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR PARENTS. Communication is the key to any relationship. Whether it's with God, someone we're romantically interested in, or even our parents, the best way to work things out is to talk. And the best way to

talk is to be around from time to time to do it.

When you do talk, watch your attitude; try to do it in honor. Avoid accusing or inflammatory statements. Nothing puts people on the defensive more than blaming them for something. When parents are defensive, they are less likely to respond positively.

Practice "active" listening. People love to voice their feelings. But the best communicators are the ones who listen and ask questions. Find out what's really on their minds; help them get what's really bothering them off their chest. Once the air is clear, you'll be able to have a real conversation with much better results.

Finally, be willing to be wrong. At this stage in life when it's so important to prove you're responsible, to prove that you can be right, turn the tables on them. Admit you might be wrong. Ask for advice. Although it may go against every fiber in your body, admitting mistakes and asking for advice is one of the surest signs of maturity.

These transitional years from childhood to adulthood can be tricky. But they don't have to turn into a setting for World War III. If you make a decent effort in these four areas—understanding, forgiving, honoring and communicating—there's no reason why you and your parents can't come out survivors.

And maybe even enjoy the process! □

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Thanksgiving IN JULY

Try this neat summertime idea . .



LATE MORNING SUNLIGHT streamed in my window and lay in a wide stripe across my bed. I stretched and leaned back into my pillow. I could hear a bird chirping in the tree outside my window, while off in the distance came the whir of a lawn-mower as one of our neighbors tried to beat the afternoon heat.

It's going to be a great day, I thought, throwing back the sheets. I went to my closet and ended up taking five minutes to decide what to wear.

After getting dressed, I went into the kitchen. Breakfast or lunch? I asked myself as I noticed the hands of the clock nudging their way toward 11 o'clock. Lunch, I decided. I opened the refrigerator and took out some cold chicken left over from last night's dinner. I added an apple, some potato chips, a couple of cookies for dessert and a glass of milk. I caught sight of my mom working in her flower garden, so I picked up my plate and headed outside to keep her company.

"Good morning, Sleepyhead!" Mom called when she saw me. I sat down in the grass, and watched her carefully trim dead branches from her rose bushes. Soon my thoughts turned to the day ahead. Should I call Jenny? Colleen? Go swimming? Ride my bike?

"A day like today reminds me how much I have to be thankful for," Mom said, interrupting my thoughts. "Uh, what?" I asked as I came out of my reverie.

"Working out here with the flowers this morning and seeing how beautiful they are reminded me how much we take for granted." Mom continued. "Like the softness of a rose's petals or the variety of colors they come in. When life's going great, we seem to forget to be thankful for what we have."

"I guess you're right," I said, thinking back over my morning. I had awakened to a beautiful day, had a closetful of nice clothes to choose from, was eating a hearty lunch—and I hadn't bothered to thank the Lord for any of it.

"I think this family needs to make more of an effort at being grateful for what God has given us," Mom said. "What do you think? Got any ideas on how we can be more thankful?"

For the next half hour, Mom and I sat brainstorming ways to say "thank you." We came up with three that we decided to use right away. The first was that everyone in the family would take turns saying grace at dinner instead of Dad doing it all the time. We also decided to keep a spiral notebook out on the kitchen table so everyone could write down what they were thankful for. That way everyone could open the book and see how God was providing for our family.

But Mom's idea was the one I liked the best—Thanksgiving in July. She decided to cook a traditional Thanksgiving meal at a very untraditional time of year to remind us that we need to be thankful always.

When Mom shared her idea at dinner that night, the enthusiasm she and I had felt that afternoon spread to the rest of the family. We decided to have

our Thanksgiving celebration the next Saturday. Each of us could invite one guest to share the meal. "Everyone has to give me a hand with the preparations," Mom said as we all rushed off to invite our guests.

On the day of the big event, everyone was up early. Soon the smell of roasting turkey filled the house. The family rushed around dusting furniture, run-

While
brainstorming
ways to express
thankfulness,
this
family comes
up with
a special
event
for the
calendar....

ning the vacuum, peeling potatoes and doing a million things that needed to get done before our company arrived.

As we hurried around the house, we joked about things we were thankful for. "I'm thankful I don't have to clean the house every day," Marty said, sneezing from the dust he

raised. "I'm thankful we don't have 12 people for dinner every night," I said, peeling what seemed like the 100th potato. "I'll be thankful when I can get out of this hot kitchen," Mom said, fanning herself with a piece of newspaper.

When our company arrived and we sat down to dinner, the joking atmosphere that had pervaded the house all day became more serious. We bowed our heads as Dad said grace, and then we all read the scriptures written on little cards by our plates. My sister, Lisa, had spent her afternoon searching the Bible for "thankful" scriptures to share at the celebration.

dinner I During looked around at the people sharing our table. Dad had invited a man from out of town who was here for two weeks to set up some new computer programs at work. Mom had invited Mrs. Selby, an older neighbor from across the street, who lived alone. My brothers each had invited one of their buddies, and Lisa had asked a girl who had just moved in up the street. My best friend Jenny sat next to me. She and her family never went to church, so I was hoping she would enjoy our summer Thanksgiving, with God as the center of attention.

After dessert, we each shared one thing we were thankful for and talked about ways to be more aware of the blessings God gives us. After our company left, we all sank back into our chairs. We talked about how successful the evening had been and decided to make our "Thanksgiving in July" a yearly event.

But we decided there'd be only one difference next time—Mom suggested we make our celebration a picnic.

ADDITIVES

Take three teens, add a deadly ingredient, and you get. . . .

GLEN, 15, OF EAST ST. LOUIS, III., began smoking cigarettes when he was 9 years old. At first, he smoked one or two a day just to fit in; then he began trying to cover up the smell by brushing his teeth or chewing gum. Neither method worked.

Glen developed an addiction to nicotine. He now smokes two packs a day—that's 40 cigarettes!

Glen's nicotine habit causes him difficulty when climbing stairs, doing push-ups, running and even walking for any distance. He is constantly out of breath. He lacks stamina. His general health is poor as he struggles to kick the habit and regain his lost vitality and good health. If Glen doesn't stop smoking, he may end up with lung cancer, heart disease or emphysema—

BETTY LOU MELL

not to mention black teeth and bad breath.

ANN WAS A POPULAR Atlanta 14-year-old who made good grades. She was a cheerleader at her school and a member of the homecoming queen's court. She was generally well-

liked and respected. Then Ann broke a rule and was suspended from cheerleading.

Because she felt she was no longer part of the elite at school, Ann rebelled. Her grades suffered. She bleached her hair and had it cut in a Mohawk style. According to her mother, she went from preppy to punk in seven months.

Nicotine, drugs and alcohol are a deadly trio. These are not horror stories made up to frighten you; they are true.

Ann found acceptance with her school's drug subculture and began taking drugs. She felt she had already lost everything and had little else to lose. "I was strung out on coke, acid, everything I could put into my body!"

Ann finally ran away from home and stayed with other runaways in a run-down house. There she added free-based cocaine to her already suffering system. When she was finally picked up by juvenile authorities, she screamed and fought but later admitted, "I wanted help; I was nearly dead."

Ann is back home now, attending church again, free of drugs, earning good grades and enjoying life.

CARL, ON THE OTHER HAND, was not as fortunate. The 17year-old lived in Del City, Okla. He went to a party one Friday evening expecting to have a good time. Then a friend put something into Carl's soft drink, explaining that it was nothing. Carl didn't want others to think he was chicken, so he drank it. Soon, he and several others became ill and were rushed to the hospital.

Carl was pronounced dead on arrival. The friend who had added what he called "nothing" to Carl's drink was held on second-degree murder charges.

Nicotine, drugs and alcohol are a deadly trio. These are not horror stories made up to frighten you; they are true. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent. Not one of these young people started out to ruin their lives or health, but as soon as they introduced these additives into their bodies, their lives were changed.

The same can happen to you.

If you are tempted or encouraged to put either of these into your body, stop and think of the high cost. It can lead to ruined health, lowered abilities, financial depletion and even death!

Say "no" to harmful substances! Say "no" to their addiction and to those who would entice you to use them. If you, or someone you know, needs help because of a harmful substance, help is available.

Your parents, pastor, school counselor or teacher can help you. Or they can send you to someone who can. Your local telephone directory offers other sources of help under such headings as "Crisis Intervention" and "Drug and Alcohol."

Remember, there is no problem God cannot solve. He wants all of us to live rich and rewarding lives. Help is as near as a prayer; ask for it.

Although experience is the best teacher, if you're really with it, you know that experience you learn from doesn't necessarily have to be your own. Learn from others' as well.

JUNUS FULBRIGHT

Assistant General Director of Youth and Christian Education







NYLA YOUTH LEADERS AND THE THREE R'S

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED what youth pastors and youth directors do when they get together? More than 200 of them, dedicated youth leaders, concentrated on the three *R*'s when the National Youth Leaders Association (NYLA) met recently in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

In this case the three R's stand for relaxing, renewing and relating.

Youth leaders, too, need rest and relaxation. (I heard what you said: Then why does he cram two days of activity into one when he takes the youth group on a Saturday outing? Why? To keep you from getting bored!) And what better place to relax than in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in the springtime?

NYLA is a Church of God organization dedicated to helping individual youth leaders establish a bond of strength and security with fellow youth ministry specialists beyond their local congregation. Their annual convention is a time for youth directors to pull away from their ministry pressures and enjoy some good, old-fashioned fellowship. This year, they came away better equipped for discipling and building Pentecostal youth for

the Kingdom.

The NYLA conference was a time of renewing. J. David Stone, a guest speaker, provoked laughter, provided inspiration and challenged the group to revive their ministries and themselves. He showed them how to inject excitement and interest back into the youth program. He talked about taking a long look inside and discovering anew a God-called burden for youth.

The greatest single danger of youth ministry is burnout, the group was reminded. As they broke bread together in group commitment, they also learned to "scratch each other's backs." They were given ways to turn things around when the program goes stale, you and the other youth aren't excited, and the workers are tired.

Another guest speaker was Craig Altman from Tampa, Fla.

Youth leaders spending quality time in sharing groups



He stressed the importance of communication and accountability. He talked about home share groups.

Youth leaders at the NYLA convention learned about relating. Several workshops were held, including those led by Junus Fulbright, assistant general director of youth and Christian education; Gary Sears, youth ministry coordinator; and Jim Hull, youth minister from Jacksonville, Fla. Besides having prayer and devotions together, participants strengthened each other with heart-to-heart talks about working for God.

The NYLA Board consists of Sam Belisle, minister of youth at Charlotte, Central, N. C.; Ed Chandler, state youth director of New York; John Childers, state youth director of Tennessee; Scott Murner, minister of youth at Middletown, Ohio; and Rocky Shrable, minister of youth at the University Church, Tampa, Fla.

Ask your youth leader if he or she attended the NYLA convention in Pigeon Forge. If the answer is "no," see to it that your youth pastor or leader has an opportunity to go next year. For information concerning NYLA, contact NYLA, P.O. Box 2430, Cleveland, TN 37311.



ASTROLOGY

AND YOU

MARCUS V. HAND

FIRST LADY NANCY REAGAN seeking guidance from the stars? Tell me it isn't so!

I don't mean Hollywood-type stars. She has probably gotten advice from them for years. I mean real stars. As in space.

I mean stars as in astrology.

Ever since fired presidential Cabinet member Donald Regan revealed that the President's wife seeks advice from an astrologer, interest in the pseudoscience of astrology has increased. Just what is it anyway?

About all the average person knows about astrology is that it has something to do with the horoscope found in the daily newspaper, next to "The Wizard of Id" and "Garfield." It seems as harmless as reading a message from a Chinese fortune cookie. But there is more to it. Astrologers are in the class with witches, mediums, fortune-tellers and card readers.

Astrology originated thousands of years ago in the ancient belief that the earth was the center of the universe. Babylonians and Egyptians observed the stars, saw how the gravitational pull of the moon affected the tides and concluded that the heavenly bodies influence everything that happens on earth. They tied this to their idolatrous belief in the stars as gods and began seeking guidance from them.

Astrologers divided the band of stars surrounding the earth into 12 equal parts, gave each a symbol and called them the 12 signs of the zodiac. The earth's surface was divided into 12 imaginary divisions, or "houses," all supposedly related to 12 departments of people's lives. Thus when the planet they assigned to the month in

which you were born reaches a certain "house," it is supposed to have some kind of meaning.

We know, of course, that the planets do not affect a person's

character; the position of the stars cannot affect one's future. Discoveries made by Copernicus and others in the 1500s and 1600s discredited astrology from a scientific standpoint. Besides, the Bible forbids astrology and other forms of superstition for the people of God. As Pentecostals, what should be our position on astrology?

- 1. We shun astrology because its foundations are wrong. Neither our nature nor our destiny is determined by the elements that make up the physical world.
- 2. We shun astrology because its methods are wrong. It teaches a determinism which excludes individual freedom by telling you your destiny is in the stars and cannot be changed.
- 3. We shun astrology because it is unreasonable, impractical and unscriptural. We are guided instead by God's Word and by His Holy Spirit.

Oh, yes!

Nancy Reagan's astrological adviser predicted a major earthquake would rock her home town of San Francisco last May 5. *Time* magazine, which reported the prediction, said May 5 "came and went with nary a tremble," except on the astrologer's personal Richter scale!

The prophet Daniel said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare. . . . But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets" (2:27, 28, NKJV).





Guaranteed

Every now and then someone will produce a game that will be so fun. so addictive and so energizing that people will do almost anything to play it. Bible Pictionary is one of those games.

The object of the game is simple. Players try to guess various words by sketching BICTHONARY. clues to each other without using letters or numbers.

You don't need to be an artist to play. All you need is an imagination and a quick pencil.

The sketches to the left are examples from a game of Bible Pictionary. Can you guess what they are? (Answers are below) Can you sketch Noah's Ark. Baby Jesus, or the Ten Commandments? Too easy? Try resurrection, Methuselah, or centuri<mark>on</mark> with the one minute time limit.

The original Pictionary is selling out everywhere. Bible Pictionary will be in equally short supply. Order today from Pathway Press and save five dollars off the retail price of \$29.95.

#885051 **\$24.95**

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his fall, a new door will be swinging open to students at Lee College. Lee's old library building was vacated four years ago when the beautiful Pentecostal Resource Center was completed. Since then, the majestic library structure

has been vacant -- 22,000 square feet of prime space on a prominent corner

of campus.

This September, thanks to the generosity of hundreds of individuals, that old library will become the new Christian Ministries





Building and will be dedicated as the anchor of a \$2 million campus face-lift project. Three floors of new classrooms will accommodate students who have come to earn their college degree in the Lee College Christ-centered environment.

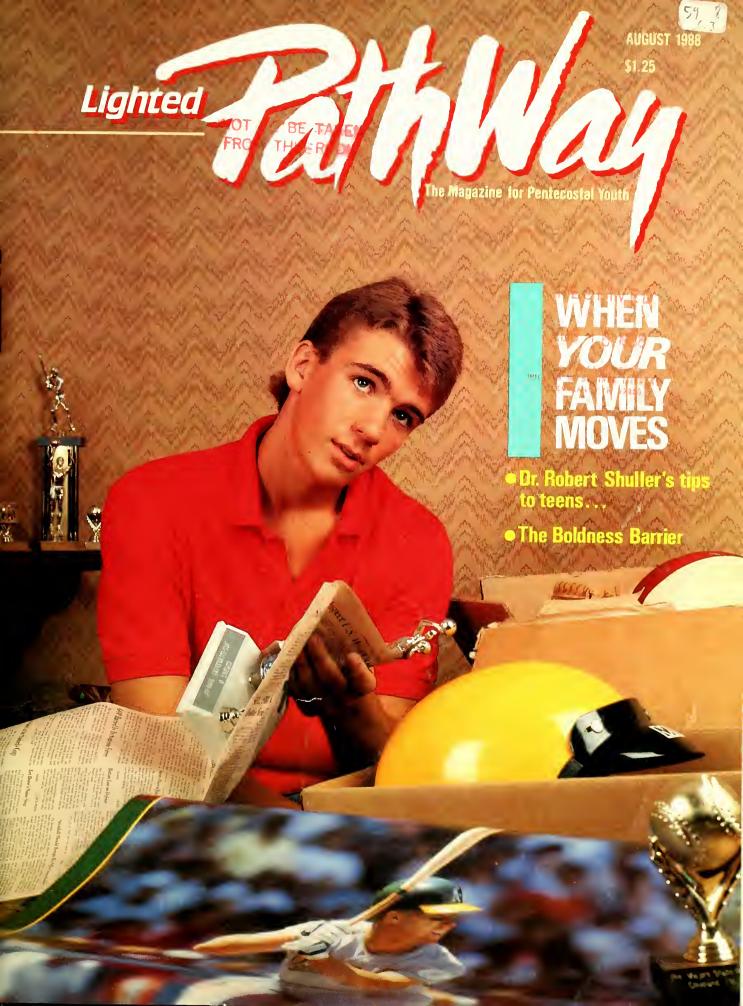
Lee College is opening doors to ministry in two ways this fall: by unveiling the new ministries

building and, in the Lee College tradition, helping open up a world of ministry opportunities to equip Christian young people for a lifetime of Christian service.

Lee College is a four-year liberal arts college with 24 different majors from psychology to computers to Bible.



	please fill out this coupon of Cleveland, TN 37311	and send it to Lee
Name		Age
Address		
City	State	Zip
SS#	Date of H. S. Grad	duation



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For more information, please fill out this coupon and send it to Lee Office of Admissions, Cleveland, TN 37311

Name _____ Age ___

SS# _____ Date of H. S. Graduation ____

Address

City _

PATHWAY

AUGUST 1988

Give us your input on articles and features for Lighted Pathway. One area we plan to feature more is music. We need to know your tastes in music and what you like reading about. Help us select the kind of articles we need by sending in the survey form on page 17. We always like to hear from you.



Breaking the Boldness Barrier p. 22



Life At Its Best p. 24

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WHERE ARE YOU most likely to find a good job during the next 11 years? A recent issue of *U.S. News and World Report* talked about the job market between now and the year 2000. Here are some predictions:

OCCUPATIONS WITH THE LARGEST INCREASE IN JOBS

- Paralegals
- Medicine (medical assistants, therapists, home health aides)
- Data-processing equipment repairers
- Retail sales
- Waiters and waitresses
- Registered nurses
- Janitors
- General managers

OCCUPATIONS WITH THE GREATEST DECREASE IN JOBS

- PBX installers
- Textile machine operators
- Statistical clerks
- Farmers
- Stenographers

- Machine workers
- Retail delivery drivers
- Stock clerks
- College faculty
- Child-care workers

BEST PLACE TO LOOK FOR A JOB

- Los Angeles
- Anaheim
- Washington, D.C.
- Houston
- Dallas
- Atlanta
- Boston
- e Con Diese
- San Diego
- San JosePhoenix



1. Keep your options open regarding related fields and location.

- 2. Don't overspecialize.
- 3. If you are in school, get a broad education.
 - 4. A varied background is a plus.

5. An employer is impressed if you have a lot of volunteer experience listed on your resume.



Where the Bucks Are

THE SECRET TO making good money is to stay in school. Average starting salaries for 1988 graduates:

- \$23,235 with a bachelor's degree
- \$34,056 with a master's degree
- \$31,749 with a Ph.D
- \$86,630 with an M.D.

There is a magic to the workplace...there is a closeness and an understanding, a language and an ethic, a history and a set of myths and fables and a structure...there is every element of an entire culture, an entire world.

Anthony M. Casales

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes (and Lungs)

- 90 percent of all smokers say they would like to quit.
- 20 percent of those who try to quit smoking succeed on their first try.
- 40 percent quit by their seventh attempt.
- Tobacco industry experts claim that cigarette advertising has "little or no" influence on whether people smoke or how much they smoke, yet the tobacco industry spends \$3 billion a year on advertising!
- Cigarette smokers who give up the habit cut their risk of having a stroke by half.
- 43 states have laws placing limitations on smoking.
- The risk of developing lung cancer is 10 times greater for smokers than for nonsmokers.

- More than 320,000 Americans will die prematurely this year of diseases linked to smoking. That's as many Americans as have been killed in all the wars fought in this century.
- In 1975 more than 42 percent of Americans smoked; today only 32 percent smoke.
- The American Lung Association (ALA) says it costs an employer between \$400 and \$4,600 more annually to employ a smoker than a worker who doesn't smoke.
- Only 16.7 percent of doctors, 14.1 percent of dentists and 23.48 percent of nurses now smoke.
- The latest available statistics show that the per capita cigarette consumption is the lowest since 1944. □





DID YOU HEAR about the experiment some sixth graders conducted at Harrison Township (New Jersey) Elementary School? They fed two rats. The first one was fed a steady diet of junk food consisting of Oreos, red licorice, soda pop, and other things. The second rat was fed from the school lunch menu, which went heavy on tossed salads, bananas and pizza.

Sure enough, the junk-food rodent became underweight, listless, dingy and generally unhealthy. Yet, it outlived the second rat.

The second rat suffered an untimely death when it choked on a cafeteria cracker!





THE YOUTH GROUP at the Regency Church of God in Jacksonville, Fla. is called the *Intensive Care Unit*. A few weeks ago youth minister Jim Hull paired up "unlikely combinations of teens" and drove them to the various homes of church seniors. After the teens had shared their faith for an hour with these senior saints, they returned to the church sanctuary and shared their experiences with each other.

The impact on both teens and seniors was incredible. For example, a trio of teens visited Mrs. Kilna, bedridden with terminal lung cancer. Mrs. Kilna was blessed, and the visit made a lasting impression on Fred, Kathy and Carol. Here are some comments:

Sister Thomas is so neat; we were really relating to each other.

-LaDuane Clifton, 16

Jim, your kids were so wellmannered. We had so much fun

-Kate Thomas, senior

You can bring them over any time.

-Grayce Ball, senior

Sister Cox composed a poem and a song about us while we were there. She's going to sing it next time she comes to church!

-Gina Lowe, 16

Aunt Betty showed us her shotgun.

-Frank Cooper, 15

When are you going to bring them back again?

-Marion Brantley, senior

Christi played the piano for Sister Braddock, and then she played for us.

-Robert Tassell, 14

I visited the grandparents of my boyfriend, Derek. They showed Christine and me a lot of his baby pictures.

-Stacy McGilvra, 16

Brother Brantley knows everything about our church's history in Jacksonville.

-Scott Hull, 18

Now this is real ministry!

-Gay Mori, assistant to the youth pastor



HAVE
YOU
TRIED
THE
NEW
EXCLUSIVE
YOUTH
TALKLINE

Each month *Lighted Pathway* publishes a monthly topic or survey question. When you call YOUTH TALKLINE follow this procedure:

- 1. Dial the YOUTH TALKLINE number: 6154 SURVEY, or (615) 478-7839.
- At the sound of the tone, speak up clearly.
- 3. Give your full name, age, city and state.
- 4. Respond to the topic of the month.

Lighted Pathway will endeavor to answer all your questions, either by correspondence or through an article in the magazine. If you wish a personal response, be sure to give your address on the YOUTH TALKLINE.

YOUTH TALKLINE SUBJECT:

Three things I am most thankful for are. . . . (Tell why)



I'm excited about God. This summer I plan on going to camp meeting, revivals and just getting on fire for God.

-Bobby Jack Age 19 P.O. Box 15 Seville, GA

I really enjoy reading *Lighted Pathway*. A lot of the articles have really helped me as a young Christian teenager. Keep up the good work!

—Brenda G. Spivey Douglas, GA

I read Lighted Pathway and like it a lot. This summer I'm just going to go out and minister to people. I'm going to move to Indiana where my dad is a preacher.

-Joy Vanoy Cleveland, TN

One of the things I will be doing this summer is attending Lee College. I'm majoring in premed. I'm proud of my family. My older brother, Bob, laid a tremendous foundation for me to build on. I'm in Singers because of him.

I won't be going to Europe this summer. I won't be doing things a Christian shouldn't be involved in.

The thing I fear most today is AIDS. \square

—Jeff Rogers Age 20 Lee College, Box 936 Cleveland, TN O! IT COULDN'T BE! Dad sitting there calmly eating dinner and saying, "I received word today that they need a pastor in Madison, and they offered it to me. I feel like I should take the church."

Scott could hear his brother getting excited about it. Sis was already in college so she wouldn't care. But I do! he thought. Not now! The other teens at church think it's great being the P.K.—Preacher's Kid—but that's what they think! At times like this it stinks!

Scott sat looking at his dad, unable to say anything. He knew if he did he'd be sorry. Inside he felt anger and frustration. With difficulty he swallowed the bite in his mouth. "May I be excused?" he muttered.

Dad nodded and kept on talking about Madison. Mom

pleaded, "But Scott, I baked a fresh apple pie. It's still warm, like you like it. . . ."

"Thanks Mom, maybe later." Right now he wasn't sure he'd ever enjoy eating again.

Scott went to his room. He felt his plans, his future, his dreams had all be thrown together in the washing machine and the spin cycle turned on. He'd never felt so mixed up.

What about school? He was Junior Class president, forward on the basketball team, first string in football. He played in the concert band and was involved in the youth activities at church.

Then there was Ellen! How could he leave her? They'd been dating most of the year. She was so sweet. How could Dad ask him to leave all this? Scott tried to study, but it was hard to concentrate. He had always been able to talk to Dad before,





Dad, I've been thinking since you got word . . . I don't want to leave . . .

but not this time. He wondered if Dad was required to accept this transfer.

Scott finally crawled into bed, but sleep came slowly. It was the longest night he could remember. Toward dawn he decided what he must do. At breakfast Scott forced down a few bites of cereal. Dad was cheerful—too cheerful.

Scott mumbled, "Got to go to school early for a meeting. See you later."

Taking the school steps two at a time, Scott saw Ellen waiting and smiling at him.

"I've got something to tell



you that I didn't want to say over the phone" he said.

"What's wrong?"

Scott clasped Ellen's hand as he told her about the family plans and the nightmare of the separation they would have to face. "I'm still not ready to give in. Can you believe it—with only one year to go? I have to talk to someone, so I'm going to see the counselor. Maybe Mr. Timmons can help me get things in focus."

"I hope so," Ellen agreed, blinking back tears.

"What's up, Scott?" Mr. Timmons greeted him as he sat down.

"I feel like a train that's been pushed off the track. I don't know where I'm headed anymore. Let me tell you what's happened in just one day's time." Scott told his counselor how he had reacted to the news of the transfer.

"Scott, I don't usually quote Scripture to teens I counsel at school, but I know you believe. Look at Proverbs 3:5, 6. You're young. God has big plans to use you in this life if you'll let Him. I know it will be hard to leave, but you're a better person for having been here.

"As for Ellen, I know you love her and if it is God's will for you to get back together, He will arrange it. Or He may have someone else, perfectly suited, planned just for you. Don't doubt His guidance.

"Here's my advice, Scott. First, talk to God. He'll listen to both sides of your problem. He'll understand how you feel. Next, talk to Ellen. If she cares enough, she'll wait. Don't make promises though. Agree to date others in the meantime. See how you feel about each other later.

"Then, talk to your dad. He loves your family so much. He's excited about this move. Make



it easier for him by helping all you can. This is his dream being fulfilled. Don't spoil it for him. He's waited for years for an opening like this. It's only another year at home, then you'll be off to college and on your own. I know I'm asking you to be an adult."

"Thanks, Mr. Timmons. I appreciate your time, but there



must be another way. I don't think you understand."

Scott left the office as the first bell rang. Throughout algebra, his mind was not on formulas but on trying to work out a solution to his own problem.

It was a long day. Scott fought sleep several periods. After school he walked Ellen home. "Ellen, we'll have to talk later. I've still got some thinking to do. OK?"

Ellen nodded and went inside. Scott turned abruptly and took the shortcut toward home. As he passed the church he slowed his pace. Dad should still be in there. Am I ready to talk to him? Scott wondered.

He decided to get it over with. "I've got to let Dad know how I feel," Scott said to himself. He ducked in the side door. Dad's office door was open, and he looked up.

"Scott! Good to see you."

Scott blurted out. "Dad, I've been thinking ever since you got word about the transfer. I

don't want to leave school here. Can't you wait a year? Or could I stay here until I graduate? Maybe one of the church families would let me live with them. I can't leave now. My life is too important with the senior year ahead. I'd have to give up too much."

Dad looked shocked. "Scott, I didn't realize how you must feel. Your senior year is an important year. I guess I was so caught up in my own anticipation that I didn't think. As for this opening—no, it has to be filled soon. The pastor there died, and they need someone immediately. I'll have to talk it over with your mother and pray about it before I consider your staying here with another family."

After several minutes of discussion, Scott said, "Thanks for listening, Dad. I'll see you at home." He felt better; Dad had always been fair.

Scott retired early. Dad and Mom talked in low voices after the rest of the family had left the table. He knew they would let him know when they came to their decision. Scott thought briefly of Mr. Timmons' advice. He still hadn't talked to God. He should have done that first. As he prepared to pray, the Bible quotation came to mind.

He had learned it in Sunday school. He could quote a lot of verses, but somehow he'd never really applied any of them to his own everyday life. I guess I didn't have to, Scott thought. "Lean not unto thine own understanding." That's what he had been trying to do. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he

shall direct thy paths." He hadn't let God do that either. With a prayer on his lips, Scott fell asleep.

The next morning Dad called



Scott into the den. "Scott, we know your senior year is important to you, so I've decided to pass up this transfer. My family's happiness is more important to me, and we wouldn't think of missing the last year you will probably be home with us. Go on to school now. Just wanted you to know. You'll probably want to tell Ellen when you see her."

"Thanks, Dad! You don't know what this means to me."

"I think I do."

Scott practically ran to school. He could hardly wait to tell Ellen the news. As he waited for her to show up, the enormity of what his dad was doing for him jolted him. This was real sacrifice and love!

Scott watched as Ellen joined him. He reached out a hand. "Ellen, Dad is willing to give up this transfer just for me—but suddenly I feel like I need to trust God's leading in this. It's so easy to see only the present when we need to trust God for our future. It won't be easy, but I guess a year isn't forever." Scott squeezed Ellen's hand.

"I'll see you a little later, and we'll talk some more. Right now I have to run home and tell Dad not to turn down that transfer."

10

ON OUR WAY

AN IMPORTANT GROUP of young people in the church is known affectionately as PKs—Preachers' Kids. As children of the pastor, more is often required of them. Moving can be traumatic for PKs. Or it can be meaningful.

Charlotte Miller, 18, lives in

Honolulu, Hawaii. She graduated from high school in May and she will attend Lee College in the fall. A PK, Charlotte has lived in Florida, Georgia, Maryland and Hawaii. Her father, the Rev. Randall Miller, has been a pastor, an evangelist and a state evangelism director. He pres-

ently serves as state overseer of Hawaii.

Two years ago the Miller family (which includes Sandra, her mother and Carla, her older sister) lived in Simpsonville, Md., when they learned they would be moving. Charlotte expressed her feelings in this poem.







GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience as real as a baptism in water. Jesus promised His disciples, "John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:5).

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is also a gift. This is something different from a gift of the Spirit, as we will see later. The Holy Spirit himself is a love gift from God. Jesus said, "If a son asks for bread from any father . . . will he give him a stone? . . . If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:11, 13).

In Acts 2:38, 10:45 and 11:17, the Holy Spirit is called a gift.

The Holy Spirit is an enduement of power. "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me" (Acts 1:8). Because we Christians are commissioned by God to carry the good news of His resurrection and God's forgiveness to all lands, cultures and peoples, He has given us power through the Holy Spirit to complete the task. Baptized in the Holy Spirit means baptized with power.



Is the baptism in the Spirit for us today?

When on the Day of Pentecost inquirers asked the apostles about the Holy Spirit, Peter replied, "'The promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call'" (Acts 2:39, NKJV).

What about the gifts of the Spirit?

After one is baptized in the Holy Spirit, he discovers that God has made available to the believer and to the church the gifts of the Holy Spirit. David du Plessis said, "The important thing is not that I as a Christian have gifts, but that the Giver

of gifts has me. The spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 are not a perpetual enablement God bestows on an individual for him to operate. Those gifts are manifested by the Spirit through a human channel at a particular time and place for the edifying of the church. Such gifts are miraculous, supernatural, instantaneous manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Anyone baptized in the Holy Spirit is a temple of the Spirit, and the Spirit may manifest Himself as He will through the channel in whom He dwells."

Dr. M.G. McLuhan said, "The seeker should not get the terms power and gifts confused. If all one is seeking is the manifestation of a gift or enablement, he will probably be satisfied with the fact he has spoken in tongues, given an interpretation or seen someone healed in answer to his prayers. God heals people in answer to any Christian's prayer, and sometimes we get thoughts in our mind we think are interpretations when they are merely personal impressions. Every gift or enablement be both erroneously can claimed and carnally imitated. One thing that cannot be imitated is the genuine power of the Holy Spirit in our lives!"

With this in mind we will look at the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Word of God.



GIFTS TO EMPOWER THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

The gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 are

- 1. The gift of the word of wisdom
- 2. The gift of the word of knowledge
- 3. The gift of faith
- 4. The gift of healings
- 5. The gift of the working of miracles
- 6. The gift of prophecy
- 7. The gift of discerning of spirits
- 8. The gift of tongues
- 9. The gift of the interpretation of tongues.

Guiding principles:

- Gifted Christians are not all alike. They are diverse—vv. 4, 5.
- Although gifts, ministries and activities differ with each Christian, the Holy Spirit gives all the gifts—v. 6.
- A Christian is given a gift of the Holy Spirit to benefit others as well as himself -v. 7.
- The Holy Spirit decides who gets which gift—v. 11.

GIFTS TO MATURE THE CHURCH

Ephesians 4:11-16

These verses contain some of the leadership gifts of the Holy Spirit. These endowments are given for the purpose of establishing the church and producing a maturity that makes it possible for individual members to receive their own gift and minister to build up the local Body. Which gifts are mentioned here?

1.			

Bible Study

3
4
Guiding principles:
• The ones so gifted are chosen by $God-v$. 11.
• The purpose of these gifts is to prepare God's

- The purpose of these gifts is to prepare God's people for service—v. 12.
- These Spirit-gifted individuals are to build up the body of Christ—v. 12.
- They are gifted to unify the body of God-v. 13.
- They are gifted to help believers mature in Christ—v. 13.

GIFTS TO EQUIP THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 12:26-31

Eight gifts of the Holy Spirit are mentioned here. List them:

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
6.	
7.	
_	

Guiding principles:

- A person with a gift of the Spirit does not give up his or her individuality—v. 27.
- All of these gifts are given for the purpose of edifying the church corporately—v. 28.
- Different people have different gifts; no two individuals are gifted alike—vv. 29, 30.

- All of the gifts must be exercised in the spirit of love—v. 31.
- All of the gifts are for service and outreach -v. 26.

GIFTS TO TRANSFORM THE CHURCH

Romans 12:4-8

The seven gifts listed in this passage are sometimes called personality gifts. This means that when you are endowed with one of these gifts of the Spirit, it transforms your personality and provides the basic motivation for everything you do—your actions and your behavior. The seven gifts named here are

- 1. Prophecy—the gift of proclaiming
- 2. Ministry—the gift of serving
- 3. Teaching—the gift of communicating
- 4. Exhortation—the gift of exhorting
- 5. Giving—the gift of a liberal personality
- 6. Administration—the gift of leading
- 7. Mercy—the gift of empathy.

Guiding principles:

- Every member of the body has his or her function in the body—v. 4.
- All of us are a part of each other and need each other -v. 5.
- A gift is given to a believer by grace; it is not some learned behavior—v. 6.
- We are instructed in how to use the gifts:

Prophecy—proclaim in proportion to your faith. *Ministry*—serve others.

Teaching—practice your teaching.

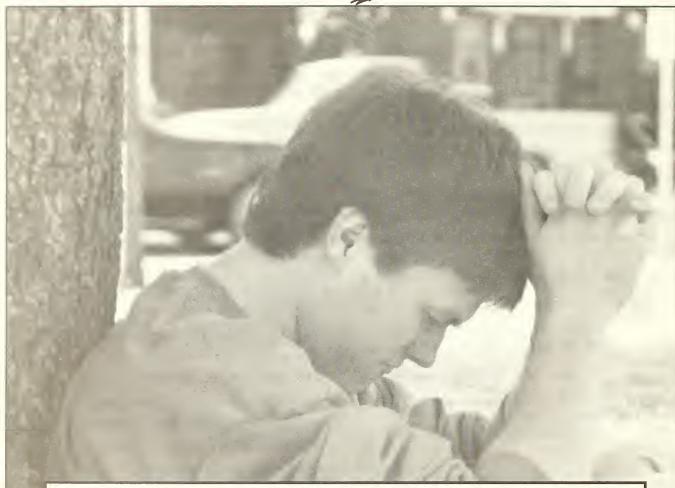
Exhortation—exhort actively.

Giving—give liberally of yourself and your possessions.

Administration—lead with diligence.

Mercy—heal the hurts of others with cheerfulness.

BibleStudy



10 STEPS TO BREAKING A BAD HABIT

- 1. Don't start one.
- 2. Recognize it as a bad habit when you do have one.
- 3. Decide to change.
- 4. Stop doing the thing immediately.
- 5. Don't make excuses.
- 6. Overcome any discouragement with a positive and enthusiastic attitude.
- 7. Keep away from friends who influence you to continue the bad habit. Break off all wrong relationships.
- 8. Seek advice, help and prayer from fellow believers.
- 9. Sincerely ask God for help.
- 10. Begin now.



MEASURE YOUR Musical Tastes

. The radio stations more $\underline{}$ our youth group are: $\underline{}$	ost popular with kids in	in assessing a song and/or singer?		
2. Individuals in your groot these stations ho	. 0			
routh group? Rate the factor 10:	nt musical tastes of your following on a scale of	8. List three Top 40 songs that offer positive values or ask important questions about life.		
	Country gospel			
Southern quartet	Musicals	a,		
Anthems	Praise choruses	b,		
Contemporary gospel	Black gospel	C		
Convention gospel	Other	9. List some artists your youth group recommends.		
. Rate the nonreligious n your youth group like	musical styles the kids best:			
Top 40 (pop)	Easy listening			
Hard rock	Big band			
Heavy metal	Soft rock			
Classical	Jazz	10. Do you rate a song more by the lyrics or		
Oldies	Other	by the beat? Why?		
o. The three Christian mu vith your youth group ar	usic artists most popular e:			
a,				
b				
c 5. Three secular recording artists popular with our group are:		Complete this Musical Awareness Survey and send it to:		
		Lighted Pathway 1080 Montgomery Avenue Cleveland, TN 37311		
b		(Note: If you are reading this at the General Assembly, complete it and drop it off at the Lighted Pathway display in the exhibit area.)		

CAN'T DO WITHOUT GOD'S

HE ROSES WERE DROOPING, I noticed. Grandma would think it was my fault.

I yanked a handful of weeds from the flower bed. A Japanese beetle lighted on the ailing rose-bush. I tugged at my garden gloves in disgust. Bugs . . . weeds . . . hot, dry weather; extra freckles . . . sunburn. And for what? The drought was killing everything, and Grandma would think I had not done my best. . . .

Big hands suddenly covered my eyes. "This is a stickup," a voice said. "Give me all your prize blooms, or else." I recognized the voice immediately, although the scent of after-shave was unusual.

"Rex," I said in a bored voice,
"I wish you wouldn't sneak up
on me like that."

My stocky, jeans-clad friend removed his hands from my eyes. "You didn't even scream this time, Nina," he responded in mock disappointment. "Consider it a sign of the bad mood I'm in," I retorted.

Rex straightened his baseball cap. "I thought you'd be reading your dad's law books and eating caviar. To celebrate your scholarship, you know."

I thrust the spade I was holding deep into the soil. Why did he have to bring that up? A simple little SAT scholarship and the world sends me packing off to law school.

"Must be neat to have the brains to choose any major you want," Rex was saying. "The only choice I'd have is a P.E. major. Too bad teachers don't make more money."

I started to mention the nonmaterial rewards of teaching but nodded instead. All summer my mom had been saying the same thing.

"Get a law degree like your dad," she'd insisted. "You're too bright to be just a teacher."

Just a teacher. My hands clinched the garden shears. Then why did teaching little

JULIE NEW WHEELER

kids make me feel so alive and reading law books send me off to z-z-land?

Aloud I said, "Well, even Grandma believes teachers should get paid more. Maybe some day it'll really happen."

"How is she, anyway?" Rex asked quickly.

I snipped off a faded rose bloom. "Mom's at the hospital with her now. A broken hip takes a long time to heal, you know."

Rex retrieved the wilted flowers from the ground and pressed them into my hands bouquet style. "A get-well arrangement," he made a bad joke.

I rolled my eyes. "She'll be upset enough when she sees how badly her flowers are doing. Every day when I see her, she reminds me how many years she's had these plants." Absently I poured water from a plastic watering can around the roses.

"What's that?" Rex asked. "Fertilizer?"

I shook my head impatiently. "It's rainwater Grandma saved up before her accident. All winter long she insisted we'd have a dry summer. So every time it rained, she spread containers all over the lawn. The neighbors laughed for weeks."

"Good thing she did it," Rex commented. "Who knows how long it'll be before folks can water their lawns—legally, that is." I stared at the once lush lawn—now a field of dried clay and straw. Grandma would be heartbroken.

"They closed the lake and fishing pond," Rex added. "Some-

thing about too much bacteria. Pretty soon there'll be nothing to do in this town but sweat."

We stood silently for a moment. Well, *I* had things to do. Visit Grandma. Do her gardening. Pack. Sleep. Plan the rest of my life.

"You're coming tonight, aren't you?" Rex asked offhandedly, interrupting my brooding. "We're studying the Book of Matthew."

"Yeah?" I responded noncommittally. I cornered a Japanese beetle with a leaf. I watched its vain attempt to turn over.

"Well, are you coming?" Rex persisted. "It's going to be at my house."

I started to recite the long list of things I needed to do, but something stopped me. Maybe it was the hopeful look in Rex's green eyes. He was a nice quy.

"I'll try," I heard myself promise.

Later that night I was glad for a change of scenery. Grandma had been cranky all afternoon at the hospital, and besides, the gardening blisters on my hands were starting to ache.

The air conditioning at Rex's house made me feel cool. I sat beside Rex and he introduced me. There were so many unfamiliar faces. Had I been out of the group that long?

Rex led the group in several praise choruses, and I sang along. I couldn't help but notice, however, how out of tune the girl beside me was. It was hard to sing "Alleluia" and think about her musical inadequacies at the same time. If you can't

sing well, at least sing softly, I thought, aggravated. Instantly I felt ashamed. What was wrong with me? Why was I so critical?

The youth pastor directed the Bible session. Rex was totally absorbed. He underlined verses in his Bible and even scrawled notes in the margins. Did the word beatitudes" have two e's at the front or one? Better check the dictionary when I get home, I thought.

I yawned in spite of myself. Glancing at my watch for the eighth time, I tried not to wiggle in my seat. I must have looked like the preschoolers I taught at Bible school last summer.

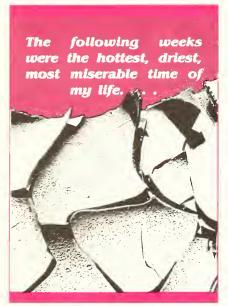
Oops! Everyone was standing for prayer. I quickly arose and closed my eyes. It was a long prayer—the fervent kind, with lots of people saying "amen" and some even crying. I shifted my feet to keep them from falling asleep.

God, this is nothing personal, I prayed silently, but I don't feel a thing. I wish I could. I really wanted to pay attention tonight. I just didn't.

Then there were testimonies. Everyone was so bubbly that it exhausted me. I had sat beside these people. Why hadn't it rubbed off on me?

Rex looked disappointed when I refused his offer of ice cream at the mall. But I couldn't help it. I needed to be alone. Gnawing questions in my mind needed some answers. Like why didn't I feel saved anymore? And what was I going to do about it?

Moonlight flooded the sidewalk as I walked from the car. Such a beautiful night but so much like all the others—cloud-less and rainless. Even in the starlight I could see bare, blistered patches on the lawn. The surviving straw-colored grass re-



minded me of Grandma's plants and her yard. How much longer would the supply of rainwater last?

I quietly entered the house, accidently stepping on the family cat as I did. Boots' yowls produced my little brother clad in his pajamas.

"Nina! Read to me," he begged. "Please."

I pushed back the mental picture of the maze of boxes in my room and followed Robbie to his room. Three books later, he announced, "I'm ready for prayers now." Then his angelic face clouded.

"Why do you look sad when no one is looking?"

I protested, surprised. "You looked sad just then," he insisted. "I saw you."

I was silent. Could my kid brother read minds, too? Soberly he prayed, "Make Nina feel happy again. Even when I'm not looking. 'Cause You see her all the time."

Later, I struggled with insomnia, thinking about Robbie's prayer. Children had such a simple but profound way of observing things. I would miss Robbie's wisdom when I moved to college. There probably wouldn't be a kid within blocks of my dorm room. And if there was, he wouldn't want to talk to a prelaw student.

Why couldn't I feel good about the future? Did God care about my career choice? Then why hadn't He shown me what to do? As I mulled over my feelings and misgivings, I fell asleep.

The following weeks were the hottest, driest, most miserable time of my life. The mayor declared a day of prayer for rain, and the temperature hit the three-digit mark the next day. No rain. After five successive rejections, Rex had given up on me. No dates. Daily I wanted to shred the law school brochure and catalog. Finally, I gave them to Robbie to play school with Boots.

The bottled rainwater was gone. When Grandma came home, she saw a botanical grave-yard instead of her floral paradise. I could sense her disappointment as she held to the metal walker with one hand and caressed a faltering rosebush with the other.

"Can't do without God's rain," she mumbled. She turned around, and the screen door creaked open. Inside, the house was silent as I contemplated what to say to her. I wiped perspiration from my forehead. She's in there crying, I thought guiltily. One summer of me and dry weather had wiped out a lifetime of gardening.

Discouraged, I went inside. When my eyes adjusted to the dim lighting, I could see Grandma sitting on her quilt-covered chair. She was praying, her blue-veined hand clasping a monogrammed handkerchief. She glanced up, her blue eyes filled with tears, and I ran to her.

"I'm sorry, Grandma," I whispered. "I tried. I really tried."

She didn't reply. As I comforted her, I prayed. My thoughts raced as I talked to God. There was so much I needed to tell Him, so much I could use His help on.

I don't know how long I knelt by Grandma's chair holding her frail hand. Or how many handkerchiefs she gently pushed into mine. But when I finished crying, she was smiling again.

"Why don't we talk about it, Nina," she said softly. "This summer's been hard on all of us."

I nodded and sat in the chair across from her. It would take a while to tell her about Rex, my ambiguous feelings about prelaw, and the general dryness of my spirit this summer. But she would listen and hopefully could point me in the right direction.

With a deep breath I said, "You're sure right about one thing, Grandma. I can't do without God's rain. . . ." \square

SO YOU DON'T FEEL SAVED?

WHY DON'T I FEEL like I did when I got saved at youth camp? What happened to that wonderful feeling I had at the altar? Why don't I feel like a Christian anymore? Can I be a real Christian and feel discouraged, depressed, sad and lonely?

Whether you are a young Christian or a seasoned saint, these questions, or similar ones, have come to your mind at one time or another. You will have various battles as a young Christian. The fact is, however, one of the major battles of young people who sincerely want to live a consistent Christian life is learning to cope with the ups and downs of feelings.

God created you and me with an emotional makeup that is capable of a wide range of feelings. Our emotions can soar to heights of joy, happiness, hope, confidence, love, excitement and blessing. On the other hand, emotions can sink to depths of sorrow, discouragement, depression, sadness, fear and guilt.

It would be impossible to explore all the aspects of our emotional makeup here, but allow me to suggest a few simple,

Whether a young
Christian or
a seasoned saint,
these thoughts cross your mind
at one time or another . . .

practical pointers that will help tide you over the "low spots" of your Christian walk.

- Don't quit. The first thing Satan would like you to do when you feel down is throw up your hands in defeat. Settle it in your own heart; don't leave it open to debate. Make up your mind that you are not going to quit, regardless of how you feel, and you will have won half the battle.
- Hold steady. Make a conscious choice to hold steady. Satan would like you to make rash decisions when you feel down. Don't make major, lifechanging decisions while you are under a cloud. Choices made in the shadows are often faulty. Hold steady! The sun will shine again.
- Read your Bible and pray. I can't overemphasize the importance of keeping up per-

sonal devotions, even when you feel down. Often a good session of reading your Bible and earnest prayer will be just what you need to bring you out in the clear.

- Seek godly counsel. When you feel discouraged you will be tempted to think no one understands or cares. Seek the advice of a godly pastor, parent or friend. The counsel of someone who has already traveled the road you are traveling can mean the difference in reaching your destination and getting lost.
- **Be honest.** Never try to cover any failure on your part. If there is sin, confess it. If you are honest with God and yourself, God will be honest with you. Honesty is the only way to keep nagging doubts from plaguing your Christian walk.
- Walk by faith. Remember, we aren't saved because we feel good. We are saved because we obeyed God, repented and placed our faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Above all, remember that God plans for you to be victorious. There is a way through. \square

21

Make Your Friendships Count

How you can change the world through your friends . . .

AFTER AN ELECTRIFYING SERV-ICE, a group of teens went to get a pizza. Two guys from a neighboring church were with them. The visiting teens did something that night which changed the outlook of the whole youth group.

What did they do? They shared Christ in an open way with the waitress by reflecting on their experience at church. Is this really so different? Unfortunately, the very thought of witnessing openly in such a way is terrifying for many teens.

A few excited kids went to their youth pastor the next day and told him what had happened. In their opinion, the witnessing had looked so easy. The youth minister responded by challenging them to see if they could do the same thing. Over the following months they won many of their friends to Christ—all because of the inspiring example set.

How do we break the "boldness barrier," as Fred Hartley calls it in his discipling book, 100%?

Two great examples of witnessing are found in John 1. Both of them look easy; yet we label sharing Christ with our friends as scary, dangerous and

even impossible. Watch these men in action and let it change your life.

The first example is found in John 1:35-42. Sometime after Jesus' baptism, John the Baptist stood talking with two of his disciples when Jesus walked by. John addressed Him as he had the day before, "Lamb of God." The two disciples of Jesus, one of whom was Andrew, asked to spend the day with Jesus. What an opportunity!

The small group concluded their visit two hours before evening and went home. The first thing Andrew did when he got home was find his brother, Simon, and tell him about his day with "the Christ" (v. 41). Immediately, he took Simon to Jesus.

Another incident happened the next day (vv. 43-46). Jesus called Philip to be a disciple. After spending some time with Jesus, Philip went to find Nathanael and told him about the great One he had just met. Nathanael showed some disbelief, but Philip convinced him that if he would just meet Jesus, he would believe.

In John 1 witnessing looks so easy. And it is! So what principles can we learn?

NATHAN A. BOEHM



1. Be sure you have an experience to share. Both Andrew and Philip had spent the day with Jesus before they became effective witnesses. They had a fresh experience to tell about. Something had happened to them. If you are willing to spend time with the Master, He will make the same promise to you that He made to Nathanael: "'I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man'" (John 1:51, NIV). An ongoing relationship with God will bring experiences of answered prayer and a growing spiritual power.

- **2. Make friends.** Friends listen to each other and share news all the time. They also care for each other. Friends are ready-made opportunities.
- **3. Share one-on-one.** This eliminates negative peer pressure. It's easier to care and to risk vulnerability when just two people are involved.
- **4. Share with excitement.** They made it sound like being with Jesus was the greatest thing that ever happened to them. Isn't that what He is to us?

5. Invite them to be a part of the excitement. Friends don't want to be left out of something great. You surely don't want to keep thrilling news from them. What kind of person would not let friends in on eternal life?

Put away your fears of sharing Christ. Seek for fresh experiences from God. If you will, you can change the world through your friends.

Your friends have friends, and their friends have friends. Armies of youth are rising to the front. Be a part of the force.

TIPS TO HELP YOU CONQUER LIFE

BRIGHT AND ENERGETIC, you are standing on the threshold of tomorrow. You have dreams and aspirations, but you also have fears and apprehensions. Here are some tips to encourage you and help you get what you want—self-respect.

TIP #1: CLOSE THE GENERATION GAPI

It is natural to want to separate yourself from your father and mother. An innate tendency God has created within you urges you to develop your own sense of independence, individuality and identity. It is a natural movement, but in the process don't create a generation gap.

If you believe your parents are at fault in creating the generation gap, then help them. Take the lead. Dr. Carl Menninger, an expert's expert, said, "Everything I am, my mother and father were before me."

Your parents are living within you, driving you, and there is nothing you can ever do to totally eliminate them. They are a part of your whole genetic, biological, organic structure. They are a part of the whole collection of your memories. They are embedded in your sub-

conscious, and you can never totally extricate and eliminate them from your life.

So why don't you try to understand them and be their friend? If you take the time to get to know them, you will realize that they are human, just like you. They make mistakes, just like you. They are not perfect, and you can be happy about that: for if they were perfect, you'd never be able to live up to their example.

Anytime there is a gap, you can either make it wider or you can draw it closer together. Be a bridge builder! Close the generation gap! Understand your parents! Appreciate them! They have a lot going for them! So do you! So work together and become a team!

TIP #2: RECOGNIZE THAT CONFORMITY DOES NOT ALWAYS LEAD TO POPULARITY!

There is also a natural inclination to draw toward your peers. It's natural to want to be liked by your peer group. The tendency is to conform. But it's important to understand that conformity will not necessarily make you popular. In fact, just the opposite happens. The per-

son who's always conforming can get lost in the crowd.

Dare to be different in a positive way. The person who has the courage not to conform is the person who's going to be noticed. He's going to be distinctive. If his principles are high and his attitude is generous and kind, he's going to be respected.

TIP #3: BELIEVE IN YOUR UNDISCOVERED POSSIBILITIES!

Don't throw away opportunities to learn and grow. You are young enough to do anything! You have your whole life ahead of you. So don't be intimidated by time. You have all the time in the world to get the education you need to develop and discover your possibilities!

How many young people today have the dream, for a moment, to become a doctor—only to have people around them say, "Do you know how long that will take?"

Learn to distinguish between negative and positive thinkers. Negative thinkers will kill your dream before you've even had a chance. Perhaps you want to be an athlete. Maybe you want



Dr. Robert Schuller gives teens ten tips to help make your life a window to shine your light through and a mirror to reflect your love. . . .

to try for the Olympics or become a professional ball player or a singer. Believe in yourself, and never listen to those around you who try to tell you the competition is too stiff and only a few make it. It may be your coach or your teacher or your parents. They're right, the competition is stiff. Only a few will make it, but go for it!

The saddest words of tongue or pen are these: It might have been. You want to be proud of who you are, and you want to be proud of the fact that you, at least, gave it a shot. You tried. Anybody who has ever tried is never going to be a total failure. The total failure is the person who didn't even dare to try. When you try, at least you succeed in overcoming the fear of failure. You've got great possibilities. Discover them!

TIP #4: ACCEPT YOUR INHERITED RESPONSIBILITIES!

A few years ago I met a young man 17 years old. Although his father was wealthy, he was unmotivated. He had inherited his father's intelligence and ability, but he didn't have any goals for himself. When I asked him why he wasn't doing

anything with his life, he answered, "Look, I've got everything I want. I've got a car. I've got a boat. My old man's rich. I'm gonna inherit it all. Why knock myself out?"

I said, "Your dad's in pretty good health, isn't he?"

"Yeah."

"You don't expect him to die next year, do you?"

"No!"

I said, "Let me tell you something. The odds are your dad may live to be 100. You inherit it all when your dad dies and if he dies at the age of 100, how old will you be?" The wheels started turning. He said, "If my dad lives to be 100, I'll be 76 years old before I'll inherit it."

I said to him, "Earn it yourself, and the odds are you'll inherit it a lot sooner. Go for it. Don't wait. And when you do inherit it, you have to remember inheritance isn't a gift to squander. It is a trust to hold in high stewardship."

An inheritance is a trust, not a gift. And you are the trustee. The same is true for the inheritance of your citizenship. You live in the United States of America. As a result you have the freedom to dream, the freedom to fail and the freedom to succeed. You are free to vote the way you want to vote and free to choose your faith.

I am old enough to remember World War II. That war was an awful war, but it was a just war. And I saw people come home with patches where there had been eyes before, sleeves tucked back with a pin where arms had been and crutches compensating for an empty trouser leg. An enormous price was paid for you to be free today in America.

Your freedom is an inheritance—it is a trust—not a gift to be squandered. You have a responsibility to make something of your life. People didn't die for your freedom so you could become an addict to drugs or alcohol. They gave up their lives to give you the freedom to make this country a more beautiful society for other human beings in which to live and laugh and lift.

(Next month Dr. Schuller tells how to get high God's way.) \square

Dr. Robert H. Schuller is seen weekly on TV's Hour of Power. Check your newspaper and channel for the time.



SO YOUR FOLKS ARE MOVING this year. Just the thought of it can be pretty scary.

Disturbing doubts cause a lot of stress and anxiety. Questions crowd your mind. Why do I have to leave all my friends? What will my new home be like? The new church? The new school? Will the people there like me? Will I like them?

At times you find yourself on the raw edge of panic.

Feeling this way when approaching a move is not unusual. Parents get transferred for a variety of reasons. Sometimes they choose to move; sometimes they have no choice. That's the way life is. Yet their moving can affect us more than we or they realize. When the cozy, comfortable world we have known is replaced by a strange new one, how can we make the transition easier?

Sit down with your parents and discuss your feelings openly. It helps you understand better their reasons for moving. It helps your parents understand your true feelings and the pain this uprooting causes.

Sometimes a move is reconsidered when parents find out their children's true feelings. Sometimes nothing can be, or should be, done.

When a move is inevitable, you can go reluctantly, with feet dragging, protesting all the way.



MARCUS V. HAND

This will make your parents feel worse than they already feel. And when anything goes awry in your new home, you can always remind your parents, "If we had not moved . . ." or "If you hadn't separated me from my friends. . . ."

This kind of attitude, however, only intensifies the pain you already feel. Moving is a wrenching experience under the best of circumstances. No need to complicate matters with a negative, nasty attitude.

On the positive side, you can learn to be more adaptable. If a move *is* inevitable, accept it with grace, regardless of your reluctance to move. Begin to look at the change in locations as an opportunity for growth. So it will mean meeting new people, getting used to new surroundings, facing new challenges. But it will also mean

finding new joys, being enriched by new experiences, learning new things about yourself. It will mean breaking out of ruts you are tired of and breaking away from things you want to get rid of.

If you are moving this year, keep these things in mind:

- Turn your old friends loose, but don't forget them. Staying in touch with familiar friends is one of the best things you can do right now.
- Make an effort to form and foster new friendships. You may have to take the initiative, but this is a first step in becoming the leader you've always wanted to be.
- Help other members of your family make the transition.

After all, the move may be as traumatic for them as it is for you.

• Trust in the sovereignty of God who cares about you and all that happens to you. Believe the Holy Spirit is leading your family now.

I'm sure you have prayed about the move your family is making. Believe that God has a higher purpose for you. Get ready to enjoy everything God has in store for you.

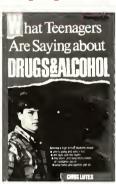
"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13, NKJV).

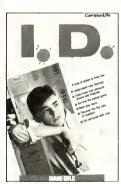
omewhere between the Beastie Boys and your Great Aunt Sylvia is a more rational approach to morality.

Sometimes it seems like there is no middle ground between those who claim there are no absolutes and those who believe that everything is absolutely wrong. The concerns of teenagers are far too complex to be resolved by a slogan on a T-shirt or a well intentioned cliché. Concerns like druas and alcohol, sexuality, peer pressure, family issues, and personal acceptance.

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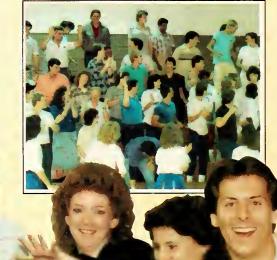
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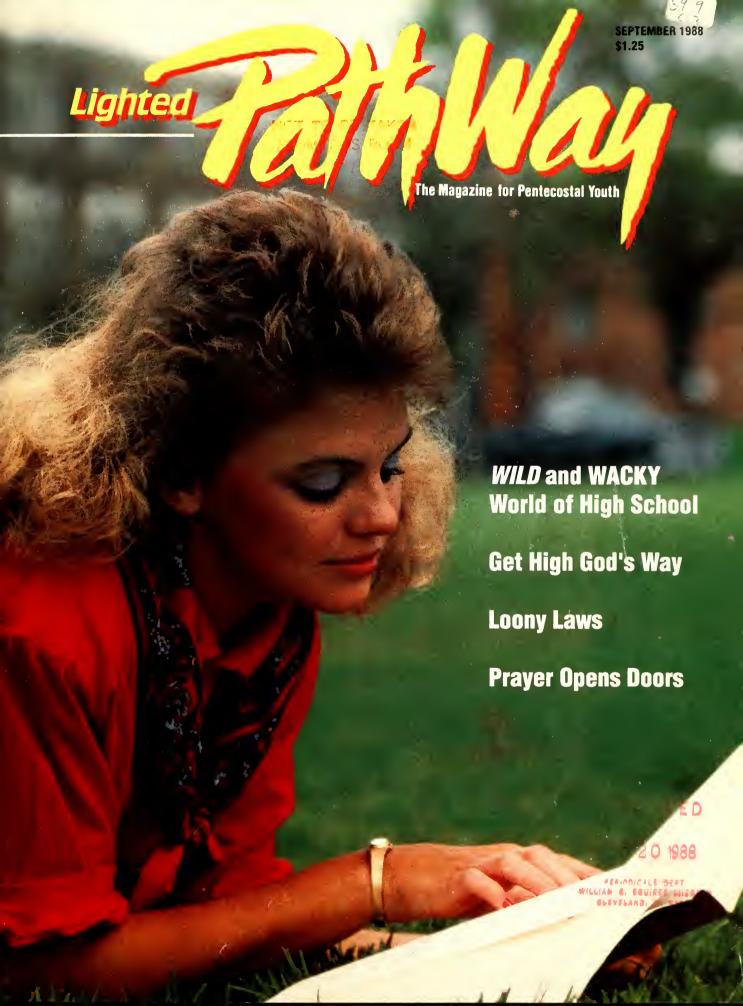
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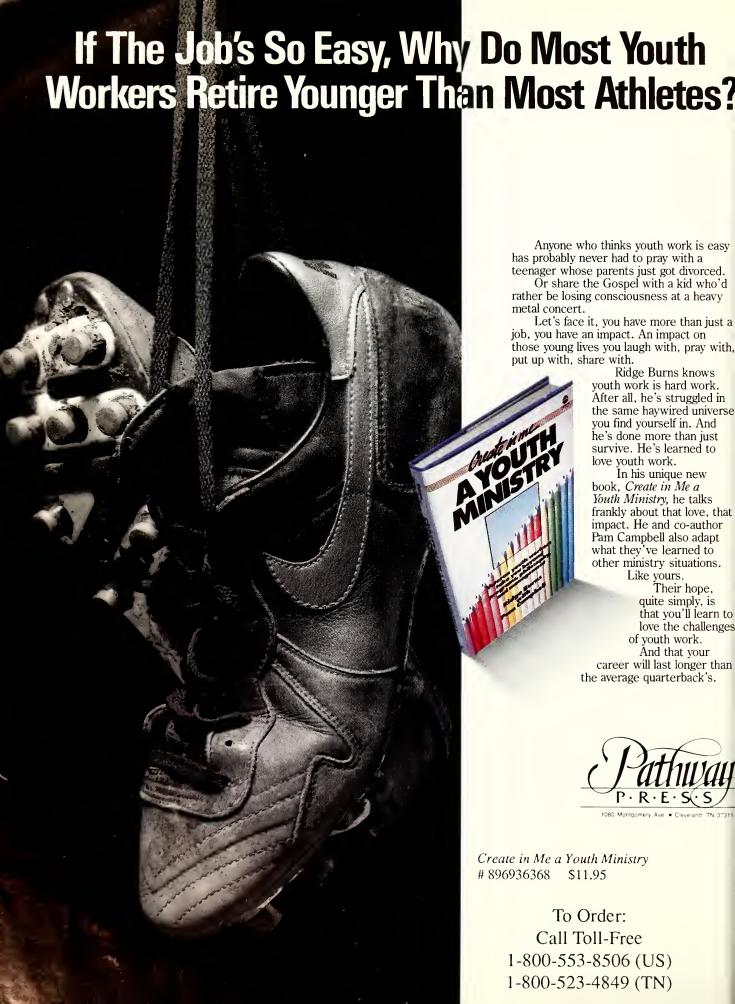
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SEPTEMBER 1988

School . . . a time of joy and of dread.

Sometimes it's fun, sometimes it's futile, always it's frantic. But school time is a time of adventure and personal growth. This issue explores this theme.



Get High God's Way



The Way Home p. 21

VOLUME 59, NO. 9

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editor. . . .

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High School Surviving in this wild, wacky world. . . . Make It in School ☐ Seven secrets to succeeding, even when others are failing. . . . Praver ☐ The most effective tool in fulfilling the Great Commission is prayer. . . . Different ☐ First impressions can be wrong ones. . . . Loony Laws [] It's the law, believe it or not!.... Get High God's Way □ Dr. Robert Schuller's tips for today's teens. . . . The Way Home ☐ An unexpected letter makes a difference. . . . **22** Success □ The key to your success is in *your* hand. . . . **25** Why Wait?

Contemporary gospel singers give their REGULARS Pathway Review

News and views from all around. Questions You Ask D Provocative questions you ask the

PHOTO CREDITS: Marcus V. Hand, Cover; Jonne Crick, pages 9, 10, 16, 18; Camerique, page 16; Dave Anderson, page 20; H. Armstrong Roberts, page 21.

Grief and Giory Letters of praise and. . . .

Light in the Pathway

The editor's musings. . . .

Bible Study
Christian lifestyle. . . .

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GEOFFREY DILLARD, OUTSTANDING LEADER

GEOFFREY DILLARD of Cornelia, Ga., enters the University of Georgia this month on a University of Georgia Foundation Fellowship. This means that through excellence in scholarship and in leadership, his four-year grant is worth more than \$20,000.

Geoffrey graduated from high school in June as valedictorian of his class. He was also senior class president, listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students, won a District DAR Good Citizen Award, won a Voice of Democracy essay contest, won first place nationally in a National Garden Clubs speech contest, won a Chamber of Commerce award for the highest GPA, and was chairman of the Junior Advisory Board for Community Bank and Trust.

Geoffrey was a Georgia delegate to the Senate Youth Program, served as a page in the Senate, won a Speaker Award on the debate team, attended the Congressional Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C., and participated in a Future Problem Solving competition.

Geoffrey's leadership skills have been obvious in the Cornelia Church of God. His Christian witness is unblemished. He sings, teaches Sunday school and has been the pianist for the past four years.

"I know that everything in my life is directed by God," he says. "I recognize that God has made these things possible. Without God, I can accomplish nothing. I always want to give Him credit for the blessings

He gives to me. I have tried to make myself available to be a light to various people."

In addition to his other activities, Geoffrey is a radio announcer on a gospel music program on a local station.

The youth leader in the Cornelia Church is Teresa Martin. She says, "We all love, appreciate and admire Geoffrey for the steps he has taken for the Lord. I am a nurse with teenagers at a mental health hospital. I have seen so many young

people who turned to drugs, alcohol, even suicide.

"This is why I wanted Lighted Pathway readers to know about Geoffrey. He has never used drugs or alcohol. Instead, he leaned on the Lord, and the Lord always supplied his needs. Young people need to know that there is another way besides drugs and alcohol.

"Just ask Geoffrey."

Teens are learning that Jesus is the good news. Help spread the Word! □





SHEILA LANGFORD

SHEILA LANGFORD, young adult member of the Stafford, Va., Church of God, recently received a pin for 18 years of faithful Sunday school attendance.

Sheila started attending Sunday school at Dumfries, Va., when she was only a few weeks old. When the Stafford Church was organized in 1972, Sheila's family took her there. Her first pastor was the Rev. J.D. Stephens.

Always active in her church, Sheila has taught in Sunday school and FTH, played the piano in children's church and served as Sunday school secretary.

Sheila likes to sing, play the piano and cross-stitch.

Sheila continues to be active in church work in Germany, where her husband, George, is stationed in the military.

DAVID PAUL VELIE

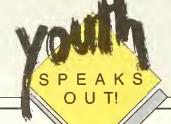
DAVID PAUL VELIE, Rockwell, N.C., graduated in June from East Rowan High School. Son of the Rev. and Mrs. Michael Velie, he attends a community college.

David, holder of 21 merit badges, was awarded Eagle Scout status

on July 3 by Troup 350.

An active member of the Rockwell Church of God youth group, he has served as senior patrol leader and is a member of the Order of the Arrow and Leadership Corp.





QUESTIONS YOUTH ASK

Mondays are tough. What can I do to get off to a better start each week?

Whether you are going to school or to work, Mondays can be tough. There's one thing about it, this problem won't change once you finish school. However, there are some things you can do to ease the difficulty of starting a new week.

- 1. Take a few minutes on Sunday night after church and go over the week on your calendar. The week may not be as busy as it seemed.
- 2. Realize that Monday will be just as rough for most of the people around you.
- 3. Decide on a plan of action to make someone else's Monday brighter and happier.
- 4. Plan a fun activity just for Monday.

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12.

I enjoy fantasizing. Is fantasy a sin?

Fantasizing is not necessarily wrong. What you fantasize about may be a sin, however. The act of fantasizing is always done through the thought processes, whether those thoughts are verbalized or not. The Bible says a lot about your thoughts, your thinking.

To daydream endlessly about what can never come about is of no benefit. For a 5-foot-2 inch, 110-pound college senior to spend a lot of time fantasizing about being the number one quarterback in the NFL is probably fruitless. But to visualize a reachable goal and imagine yourself reaching it can give you the motivation and impetus for fantastic achievement.

It is always wrong to fantasize about sin or to spend irreplaceable time thinking negative thoughts.

Read Philippians 4:8.

Sometimes I find myself doubting things I shouldn't doubt. Is this wrong?

It is not a sin to have doubts about God if they are sincere doubts. Doubt alone is not sin; you may merely be admitting wonder. Your doubt may be an honest search for the truth.

In your doubts, however, be open to God's truth. Ask your questions out loud, without fear. He will not be offended. But be ready to hear what God has to say back to you.

Frederick Buechner, a contemporary writer, once said, "Doubt is the ants in the pants of faith. It keeps it alive and moving."

Read the story of Thomas in John 20:24-29.



HAVE YOU TRIED THE NEW **EXCLUSIVE**

Each month Lighted Pathway publishes a monthly topic or survey question. When you call YOUTH TALKLINE follow this procedure:

- 1. Dial the YOUTH TALKLINE number: 6154 SURVEY, or (615) 478-7839.
- 2. At the sound of the tone, speak up clearly.
- 3. Give your full name, age, city and state.
- 4. Respond to the topic of the month.

Lighted Pathway will endeavor to answer ali your questions, either by correspondence or through an article in the magazine. If you wish a personal response, be sure to give your address on the YOUTH TALKLINE.

YOUTH TALKLINE SUBJECT:

Two things I want to accomplish this school term are. . . .



YOUTH TALKLINE

James Brooks Age 19 Bluefield, VA

Last summer I worked Roanoke as a staffer at a Christian camp to help pay for some of my college. I am entering Lee College where I plan to study for the minis-

I stayed away from the sins of the world most people in my high school do, such as drinking and cursing.

Tahelia Henry Age 14 Battle Creek, MI

In camp last summer I did some face painting, drama, preaching, music, teaching, clowning and puppets.

I did not use drugs or alcohol and stuff. I resisted peer pressure.

Julie Jones Age 19 341 Northwood Dr. Morton, MS 37117

My summer plans are to get a summer job, find a new boyfriend and get ready to go back to college in the fall. I plan to get back in church very, very soon.

SURVIVIG

THE WACKY WORLD OF HIGH SCHOOL

WAITING FOR THE FIRST day of school can be like waiting for Christmas or like waiting for the dentist to call you. If you are entering high school this year, here are some first-day survival tips your guidance counselors never told you.

1. Don't dress up the first day. All your classmates will look like they rolled out of bed 10 minutes before school started and grabbed the clothes they had spilled bleach on the night before.

2. Take your own map of campus. Don't rely on the directions of upperclassmen. They will steer you to the girls' locker room or the principal's office instead of the biology lab.

3. Don't panic if you can't find the biology lab and end up in the principal's office anyway! Teachers and administrators scramble classrooms and offices because they like to watch the confused faces of sophomores.

4. Wear athletic shoes. Since you have to take only one P.E. class your entire three years at high school, guidance counselors purposely schedule consecutive classes on opposite ends of campus.

5. Take a blowtorch and dynamite to open your locker. The combinations homeroom teachers give out rarely open the assigned locker. Lockers instinctively know their owners and resist another year's poundings of books, lunches and gym suits.

6. Don a gas mask before opening your locker
in case last spring's gym
suit sprays toxic fumes.
Also beware of mold
vines from last semester's tuna sandwich
grabbing you.

7. Don't eat anything that crawls off your lunch tray or stares back at you!

8. Wear a helmet and raincoat in the cafeteria to avoid being clobbered by flying pizza, cole slaw and jello. Wear your helmet in the halls and in classes to protect yourself from spitballs and diving paper airplanes.

Have a great day on your first day of high school. If you really do survive the next three years, I'll give you a hundred tips for surviving a year at college! □

Tami has survived three years of high school and one year of college. . . .

TAMI FRAZIER

Feel better about yourself by starting off right. First impressions are not necessarily permanent ones, but they are important. Concentrate in the beginning, and things will go much easier for you the rest of the year.

Make a conscious effort to know your teachers on a personal basis. It's important for them to see you as an individual rather than just as a "warm body." A busy teacher has many students, so it's up to you to take the initiative and get acquainted.

Spend time doing mundane things like studying. If you study with a friend, you can compare notes and ideas and make learning fun. And it helps to turn in your homework and assignments on time. Believe it or not, the material you're exposed to in class is important.

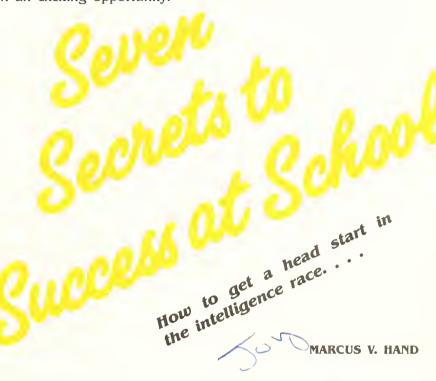
Work on relationships. Be friendly with everyone, but choose your close friends carefully. Avoid getting close with anyone who pulls you down spiritually. Concentrate on your relationship with God as well as your relationships with others.

Start working on assignments early. If a paper is due in two weeks, don't wait until the night before to begin. Semester projects are usually impossible to complete in two or three days. Don't penal-

ize yourself by starting late.

Get into the spirit of things. An upbeat person is a lot more fun to be around than a whiner or one who mopes. Be enthusiastic. Cultivate in yourself the qualities you like in others. View every difficulty as a challenge, every problem an exciting opportunity!

Let your light shine. As a Christian you are being transformed more and more every day into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). This means that through Him you have the power to influence others rather than allowing them to always influence you.







PRAYEROpens Doors

The role of prayer in the evangelization of the world. . . .

GEORGE COWAN

AGE AFTER PAGE of computer paper rippled down from the speaker's clipboard to the platform. The folded stack finally toppled over and poured like running lava down the platform steps to the floor of the auditorium. The audience leaned forward. Young people talking to each other stopped, eyes glued to the pages flipping downward.

As the paper continued to unfold, the speaker explained that the pages were a listing of the languages spoken in the world today. Each line represented one language. Each page had 60 lines. Following the name of each language came the number of speakers and a statement

of translation need.

The paper runoff ended. The audience relaxed and prepared to listen. The 110-foot document had taken only 50 seconds to unfold, but none of the viewers will ever forget the graphic impact of the complex language situation that faces missions today.

For information on helping the Church of God in scripture translation and distribution, write or call:
Lovell R. Cary,
General Director
Church of God World
Missions
P.O. Box 2430
Cleveland, TN 37311
Phone: (615) 472-3361

Almost 6,000 languages—of which English is but one! They are not dialects but different languages, each of which might need its own translation!

In 1988 only 303 languages have the whole Bible published, 670 more have a whole New Testament, and 911 more have at least one book of the Bible. For several hundred more, work is now in progress.

Over 90 percent of the world's population speak languages in which some Scripture is translated. But many of these people have never possessed or even seen a copy. Even if they had, they wouldn't be able to use it because they've never learned to read.

What about the rest?—over 3,500 different languages, spoken by over 300 million people, but still with nothing of God's Word for them. Some of these language groups are large, with millions of speakers. Others are small, with thousands, hundreds or perhaps only dozens of speakers.

Some have heard about Christ but usually through a foreign language. There may be established churches, but no Scripture in their mother tongue. But they are all people whom God loves, people for whom Christ died, people to whom God gave his Word, the Bible.

It is high time that we who have had the Bible for so long should take seriously our responsibility of helping to provide the Scriptures for the rest of the world.

Taken from In Other Words, July / August, 1988. Copyright 1988, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Huntington Beach, CA 92647. □



t vinter to be the time.

I felt overdressed in a pressed skirt, neatly pressed white blouse, saddle oxfords and lace-bow hair clip.

barded by the sounds of whining blow-dryers, the pitter-patter of footsteps, delightful giggles. Creatures with alien faces made mad dashes down the hall. Bright, fluorescent lights blinded my eyes as I read the names on each resident's door. Suddenly, it all stopped. This madness came to a screeching halt. More faces peered sharply in my direction, and it hit me like a bolt of lightning. For the next semester this hall stamped "Simmons" would be my home.

Halfway down the hall I came to a door with the number 315, over it. This was it. Reaching for the door handle, I noticed the unfamiliar sounds of loud, hard music coming from within the room. I opened the door to find what looked more like a disco than a dorm room.

Lights flashed a variety of colors on the fluorescent green sheets. A brunette stood in front of the mirror. At least her roots were brunette; the rest of her hair was bleached blond. Her attire made a Frederick's of Hollywood outfit look like a Puritan costume, and it was all of black leather. Her spiked heels were a neon yellow.

I felt overdressed in a pressed skirt, neatly pressed white blouse, saddle oxfords and lace-bow hair clip.

She continued applying purple mousse to her hair for several minutes before she noticed me. "Hey," she began, "what's the deal?"

"I . . . I . . . I'm your new roommate. My name is Mary," I hollered over the blaring radio.

"Oh," she said and turned back to her hair. After a few moments she grabbed a purse and left. I didn't see her again until the next morning. Breakfast was at 7:30, so I got up at 5 to take a shower, roll my hair, make my bed, have devotions and vacuum.

At 7:15 a.m. she still wasn't awake, so I took the liberty of tapping her. She nearly jumped out of the bed. Starting to holler something, she paused, looked at me and said, "Oh, hey."

That was all she ever said to me—"Hey."

She got up and began to put in one of her Motley Crue tapes when I bravely ventured a question, "Can we please listen to Sandi Patti instead?" I asked.

"Sandi who?" she replied.

"Never mind," I answered. I was so aggravated with her not knowing and her uncaring speech.

Several days went by before the silence was broken again. I got up the courage to talk to her, but it was like talking to a brick wall.

"Andy," I began, "can we taik?"

"Sure," she replied, "about what?"

"Well, nothing in particular; it's just that we don't ever talk to each other, and we are roommates," I said.

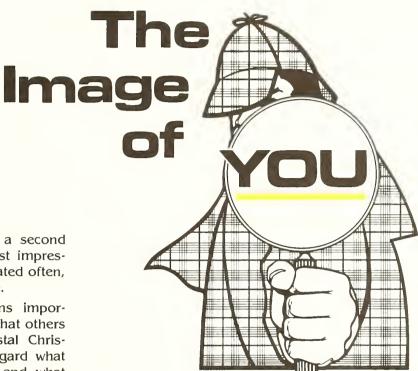
"Oh!" she replied nonchalantly. Her casualness angered me and made me even more determined. Finally, I could take it no longer, and I asked the question that had plagued me for what seemed an eternity; "Are you a Christian?"

The minute the words were out, I realized I should have kept my mouth shut.

"Don't start with me," she snapped. Guilt covered me, and I felt numb.

I quickly apologized. "I'm sorry. That's none of my. . . ." But she stormed out of the room before I could finish. I heard obscenities trail behind her. I felt so badly, and I didn't know what to do. That's when I realized the situation was too great to handle alone. I knelt to pray and asked God for forgiveness. I also asked God to be with Andy wherever she was.

Several hours later Andy entered the room. Her heavy makeup was streaked with tears. She could hardly speak the words as she said, "Mary, I'm sorry I've been such a . . . a . . . well, you know what I mean. I know I need God, but I don't know how. Can we talk?"



"YOU NEVER HAVE a second chance to make a first impression." We hear it repeated often, and we know it's true.

But are impressions important? Does it matter what others think? As a Pentecostal Christian, should we disregard what others say about us and what they think of us? Should we ignore their evaluation of us and of our behavior?

Our experience in Christ is not up for evaluation by other people. We can ignore the opinion of anyone who disparages our Pentecostal experience. What happens inside the spirit of a man, between him and his God, is not a topic for subjective study.

Our behavior is another matter. The testimony we live, the witness we show by our outward actions, is important for the cause of Christ. This is why Jesus advised His disciples to "be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16).

"I think that God has displayed us," Paul acknowledged, "for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men" (1 Corinthians 4:9).

Accepting the fact that Spiritfilled Christians, like the first apostles, are on public display should affect everything we do. During the next few months we will engage in some lifestyle Bible studies on these pages. We will look at various aspects of the Pentecostal youth's lifestyle and consider how it impacts our testimony and witness to others. If you have a suggestion for a subject, submit it for consideration.

This month's topic may not seem too important at first glance. It does, however, reflect the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives and affects our testimony to those close to us. Let's look at our own bedroom.

Fixing Up Yo

	someone who didn't know you walke t there, what image of you would th			
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2. What need	ds repairing in your room? Set a dea	dline for getting each job done		I
	Project	Complete by		
b			-	
d				
2			-	

BibleStudy

3. Des	scribe how you	would fix up your room	if money were not a factor.
		4. What can you do r look more to your liking	now to make your room?

Bible Study

Steps to Redecorating Your Room



 Make a list of the things you would like to do.
 Get an approximate cost for each item.
 Sit down with your parents and tell them what you would like to do. Show them the list you have made.
 Determine together which projects can and cannot be done.
 Talk over which projects you will pay for and which ones they will finance.
Draw up a plan of action. List the projects in the order they will be done.
Get started!
 Ask God to bless you as you work on these projects and to consecrate your room.
 Make Colossians 3:17 personal. Quote it this way and commit it to memory: "Whatever [I] do in word or deed, [I will] do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

AWS ARE PASSED to rectify a particular problem or need. They make sense when they are first enacted, at least to the ones writing them. But manmade laws often outlive their usefulness. Then they begin to look foolish.

Robert W. Pelton authored the book *Loony Laws*. He gives some examples of laws still on the books because no one has ever taken the time or effort to repeal them.

- In Halstead, Kan., it's against the law to eat ice cream with a fork in public. A 'forked' ordinance?
- An ordinance still on the books in Nacogdoches, Texas, says that if a child uses profanity, he or she must be given a dose of castor oil. To purge the mouth, no doubt!
- In Nekoma, N.D., it's against the law to sneeze "while on any public street." Nekoma's a healthy place!
- A Sutherland, lowa, law forbids boys from carrying ice cream cones in their pockets. What about girls?
- In Redbush, Ky., it's illegal to be seen riding an ugly horse in a public place. Who's got a handsome horse for sale?

- In Rock Springs, Wyo., no more than two kids can sip a soft drink from the same bottle. You sell more pop that way.
- In Cobre, Nev., you are not allowed to chase a cat up a telephone pole. It might overhear a conversation.

- A Tamarack, Idaho, law prohibits you from having a picnic in a cemetery. *Please don't feed the ghosts*.
- In Grants Pass, Ore., burping loudly is illegal while you are walking down the street. How about softly?
- In Hickory Springs, Ark., you can legally take a bath only on Saturday night. *Please!*
- In Pickens, Okla., an almost forgotten ordinance left over from the dust-bowl days forbids taking a bath "during the winter months." Spring is such a relief!
- In Beckley, W. Va., walking down a public thoroughfare with untied shoelaces is against the law. Don't stumble over the law!
- A Janesville, Wis., ordinance says your parents can be jailed if they permit you to pull a dentist's teeth. That's tooth much.
- In Wades Mill, N.C., you cannot legally make ugly faces at children who are "freely roaming the community." Your normal face is scary enough.
- In Suffolk, Va., you are not allowed to ride a goat in a public place. Can you get the city officials' goat?

AGAINST THE LAW

How to Get High

GOD'S WAY



LAST MONTH DR. SCHULLER gave four tips on living life fully. Those tips were

- Tip #1: Close the generation gap.
- Tip #2: Recognize that conformity does not always make you popular.
- Tip #3: Believe in your undiscovered possibilities.
- Tip #4: Accept your inherited responsibilities.

Here he continues the message to teens he preached on the *Hour of Power* telecast. □



DR. ROBERT SCHULLER

Nobody has been as high as often as I have . . . I have never used chemicals . . . I am naturally excited, enthusiastic, optimistic . . . it's the natural way, God's way. . . .

TIP #5: LEARN TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN LOVE AND LUST!

You are at the age where you are discovering the drives called sexual appetites. You were born into a society where there are epidemics of sexually transmitted diseases. You're going to hear a lot about safe sex, and I want to teach you a little myself because we do have big problems!

I grew up in a family where my father and mother taught us not to have sex until marriage. My wife grew up in the same kind of family. And I still live with this narrow definition of sexual morality. I have had sex with only one person, and that's my wife—and it was not until our honeymoon. That's the way God intended it—because that's the best way! That's also the safe way!

You see, safe sex means far more than just preventing sexually transmitted diseases. Sex is meant for the procreation of children, and God intended for us to enjoy it. Something that has such fantastic potential for terrific pleasure deserves to be enjoyed totally and protected from the possibility of some negative emotions that would rob it of its full explosive joy.

You shouldn't have to worry about fear and shame and rejection and suddenly wake up to find that the bed is empty and you are used and alone. The only way to fully enjoy sex without fear is within the bounds of a marriage commitment.



Distinguish between lust and love. Lust is interested in satisfying a selfish craving. Love is interested in doing what's right for the other person.

TIP #6: PLAN YOUR LIFE AND WORK YOUR PLAN!

Life doesn't hand anything to you. You have to go for it. This means you have to plan it without worrying about how much it will cost or how long it will take. These are only obstacles and challenges that need to be overcome. Obstacles can be overcome-that's the easy part! But you'll never get anywhere if you don't know where you are going. You have to have a plan if you want to succeed. Remember this line-it could change the whole course of your life: If you are failing to plan, you are planning to fail!

TIP #7: SUCCESS IS WHAT YOU ARE—NOT WHAT YOU DOI

Success is what you are, more than what you do or what you have. Many of today's teenagers grow up in an affluent society. But remember, ulti-

mately you'll be judged by the person you are, not by your acquisitions.

Someone went to visit a famous rabbi in Poland. The visitor entered the rabbi's home and was shocked to see that it was virtually unfurnished. The visitor said, "Rabbi, where is your furniture?"

The rabbi looked at the visitor and said, "Where is yours?"

"But ľm just passing through."

To which the rabbi replied, "So am I."

Success, in the final analysis, is not what you have nor what said, "I'm kind of shy to say this, but . . . I'd really like to be Jesus Christ."

Let your mind be a mind through which Christ can think; your heart, a heart through which Jesus can love; your hands, hands through which Jesus can lift. Let your face be a face through which Christ can smile; and your personality, the kind of a personality that wraps a nice warm blanket around those who need to be loved.

TIP #8: LEARN TO GET HIGH-GOD'S WAY!

There are lots of ways to get high. Unfortunately, many have



you do. It's not the education you have. It's not the property you own. It's not your accomplishments that make you a success. It's your character-it's who you are!

This means you can be supersuccessful if you will choose to become a beautiful human being. You can become a beautiful human being if you'll simply become a person in whom Jesus Christ is allowed to live.

Dick Van Dyke was playing the game Who Would I Most Like to Be? in his home in Arizona. One guest said, "Beethoven," Another said, "Einstein."

When Dick's turn came, he

learned to get high through chemicals. But that's just one way-and believe me it's a tragic, destructive way. The best way to get high is God's way.

I don't think anybody has been as high as often as I haveand I have never used chemicals to get my boost. I am naturally excited, enthusiastic and optimistic. It's the natural way, and it's God's way, because He gives me ideas. He reassures me that I'm OK and He encourages me to believe in myself and my dreams. He makes me feel that I can do anything and that it'll be good. When you live this way, you don't need chemicals.

TIP #9: COMMIT YOURSELF TO POSITIVE THINKING!

It's important for you to realize we live in a negative world. negative world churches are all hypocritical. Just remember: The church is the only institution that spends billions of dollars to get the worst people in the world to try to join their club.

When I was in college, I got elected to this fraternity. But before I could join, I had to pass their strict inspection. I had to measure up to their standards. I had to prove myself before I was deemed good enough to join.

It's just the opposite in a church. Who do we go after in a church? We go after the sinners. We scan the highways and the byways to try to get the worst people to join. So don't be surprised if you find some sinners in the church. After all, we aren't a museum for saints; we're a hospital for sinners.

TIP #10: FOLLOW THE **GLEAM OF GOD'S** DREAMI

God has a plan for your life, and it's a great dream! What is it? I don't know that. I do know where it starts. It starts when you give your life to the Lord. It starts when you say, "Dear Jesus Christ, I want You to live in me. I want You to work through me. I have only one life to live. I want to live it for You."

If you've never accepted Jesus as your Savior, do it now! Right now—it's just very simple. It's not an argument. It's just a simple decision.

Dr. Robert H. Schuller is seen weekly on TV's Hour of Power. Check your newspaper and channel for the time. \square

'M NOT GOING, DAD. Don't you understand? I'm never going to church again."

Pastor Browne's shoulders sagged. Nick's hot defiance in previous weeks had been easier to deal with than the flat, cool voice of this virtual stranger who spoke now. Wordlessly the troubled minister moved toward the stairway, down the stairs and out the front door.

The VVay

CHERYL STALEY

funeral. The closest he had come to communicating with God had been on the day after what the church called her "home going." Nick pounded desk his and shouted, "God, You healed others. Why not Mom? Did prayed. You hear us, or don't You even care?"

It seemed like the end of a long mental journey. The air in his bed-

room was tense with the unspoken refrain, "Don't You even care, don't You even care, don't You . . . "

Nick rose and began to pace restlessly about his room until his eyes focused on the Bible in the corner of the bookcase.

I might as well get rid of that, too, he thought. He picked up the book to take it out of his room and out of his life. A single sheet of notebook paper fell to the floor.

Dear Nicky,

I'm going to the hospital for the last time in just a little while. I know I won't be coming back to this house. My next residence will be in a mansion that Jesus is finishing for me even as I am writing this note to you.

Don't be hurt or disappointed because I didn't receive the kind of healing we prayed for. Death is a form of healing, too. Nicky, the Bible says heaven is a place with no more sorrow, pain, death or tears. The minute I enter God's presence I'll be healed.

Serve God with your whole heart, Nicky, and meet me there, OK?

Love, Mom

Nick's eyes filled with tears. "God, thank You for healing my mother. Forgive me for thinking that You didn't care. Right now, though, I need to go over to the church and let Dad know that Mom is not the only one who has come home."

Nick heard the door close quietly, and against his will, his mind began to replay recent scenes. "No! I won't think about it," he muttered. But once his mental movie began, he was powerless to stop the thoughts that charged through his mind.

He could see Mom playing the organ while sunlight bounced off her dark hair . . . Mom making big stacks of sandwiches and cookies for him . . . Mom sitting in the stands, her eyes glowing with pride in him as he sank hook shot after hook shot.

Everything changed though. Her eyes had glistened with unshed tears as she explained, "Nicky, I've been for my checkup. Dr. Collier found a hot spot in my brain scan."

"But he said they removed all the cancer last year, Mom. The doctor was sure of it; he said-"

She had interrupted his anguished pleading. "Nick, a brain scan won't show a hot spot unless there's a malignancy. But God can heal me. You know that, Son. You've heard your dad preach about how Jesus died for our healing as well as for our salvation. Now we begin to ask Jesus to do what the doctors cannot do, OK?"

Everyone in the church had prayed. Nick had prayed and hoped and pleaded.

But Mom was gone now, and he had not prayed or even entered the church since her

SUCCESS

It's up to YOU

C. WAYMON MILLER

Virginia State Director, Youth and Christian Education

OMEONE HAS SAID, "We get what we deserve in life, but only the successful will admit it."

The Lord said to Joshua. "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful" (Joshua 1:8, NIV). The Lord was holding Joshua responsible for victory. God had provided the opportunity and had equipped Joshua with necessary abilities and talents, but Joshua was responsible for executing the plan and putting forth a good effort. If he would do the right thing, believe the right thing and say the right thing, he would be successful. It was up to him.

We, too, are responsible for personal triumph and success. If we fail to reach our goals, we cannot point the finger to someone else. We cannot blame our heritage, environment, education or our lack of opportunity. Success is up to you.

The Declaration of Independence guarantees the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The key word is *pursuit*. You have the right to compete, not to win. Being successful is not a right guaranteed; it is a privilege earned. Winning is up to you.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked for us" (Hebrews 12:1, NIV). In this verse we see the possibility, the price and the personal nature of success.

THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS

Consider the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11. In them we see what trials can be borne, what victories can be won, what work accomplished and what character built up.

- If by faith *they* overcame every obstacle, why should we be discouraged by difficulty?
- If by faith *they* conquered their many and mighty enemies, why should we be afraid when overpowered or outnumbered?
- If by faith *they* were victorious despite outward opposition and inward weakness, why should we doubt ourselves or fear failure?

The Apostle Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13, NKJV). The possibility of success is there, but we must be able to see it.

THE PRICE OF SUCCESS

To throw off everything that hinders is not easy, but it is essential. We must strip ourselves of any and all encumbrances to success. We must remove all the blockades on the road to personal triumph.

Robert Schuller has said, "On the road to success, don't be sidetracked by life's frills, thrills and spills." While some things may bring immediate gratification, they may not reward with a sense of success. Instead, after consuming our time, energy and money, they leave you feeling empty and worthless.

If you are going to achieve personal fulfillment, personal triumph, a sense of well-being, happiness and contentment, you cannot be enslaved by the world's obsessions and habits. If you are going to be successful in your career, ministry or marriage, or if you would leave your mark on society, you cannot be held captive by your every want and desire. Yielding to the frills and thrills of life will derail your dreams and bring certain failure.

To run the race with persistence is equally essential. It's always too soon to give up! Gentleman Jim Corbett, during a colorful boxing career, was asked, "What is the most important thing one must do to become heavyweight champion of the world?" Corbett replied, "Fight one more round."

When Walt Disney applied to the Kansas City Star for a job as an artist, the editor sent him away and encouraged him to give up on the idea of ever becoming a cartoonist. Walt Disney, however, refused to give up!

- Two frogs fell into a deep cream bowl.
 - Only one frog was an optimistic soul;
- The other took the gloomy view; "We shall drown" he sobbed with much ado.
- Then, with a last despairing cry, He flung up his legs and said goodbue.
- Said the other frog with a merry grin "I can't hop out, but I won't give in.
- I'll just swim around till my strength is spent;
- Then will I die, at least content."
 Bravely he swam till it would seem
 His struggles began to churn the
 cream.
- On top of the butter at last he stopped,
 - And out of the bowl he gaily hopped.
- What is the moral, 'tis easily found:

 If you can't hop out, keep swimming around.

Orenthal doesn't have to act anymore; he is tough—tough enough to be gentle. . . .

THE PERSONAL NATURE OF SUCCESS

Notice that the race is marked for us! When you get right down to it, each of us has our own race to run. We are individuals, and God tailors a plan for each of our lives.

You have a unique set of talents, abilities, gifts and interests which make you who you are. You have to overcome your very own set of obstacles, opposition, fears and failures. This also makes you who you are. It is your personal race, and you can achieve success doing what you have been called to do.

Discover God's plan for your life, then go after it. Dare to dream a little, and determine to be the best you can be. If you ever start settling for mediocrity, you're doomed to failure.

One of the biggest hurdles on the road to success is mediocrity. Don't get into a rut or settle for less than you are capable of doing.

In 1947 the Potrero Hill district of South San Francisco was a real ghetto. That year Orenthal was born with an oversized skull; soon after birth he contracted rickets, a poverty-related disease caused by malnutrition. His bones softened, and his legs began to bow.

Too poor to afford braces, Orenthal's mother rigged up a homemade contraption. Trying to correct his bowed legs she reversed her son's shoes, then attached an improvised metal bar to the top of the shoes to keep the feet straight.

By age 6, neighborhood kids were calling him cruel names like "pencil legs" and "waterhead." He was the constant object of cruel jokes; so to compensate, he got tough. He would make

them stop laughing.

Now, to succeed at anything if you've got two malformed legs, an enlarged head, a juvenile arrest record and a name like Orenthal must seem like an impossibility. Yet, succeed is exactly what Orenthal did!

He now lives in the exclusive Brentwood district of Los Angeles. He drives a Rolls-Royce. His plush office is located in expensive Beverly Hills. A busy executive, he has his own production company and contracts with ABC and NBC. He is seen on numerous television commercials.

The ghetto is not forgotten, nor the disease. Success hasn't clouded the memories of nicknames like "pencil legs" and "waterhead." But Orenthal doesn't have to act tough anymore; he is tough—tough enough to be gentle.

He is extremely grateful for his many successful careers, including his outstanding football career! For his plush office the name on the door is Orenthal—Orenthal James Simpson—better known as the "Juice."

O.J. Simpson.

The race is yours—make the most of it!

- 1. Share your life with people you enjoy.
- 2. Experience as many different things in life as possible.
- 3. Take some risks—stretch your faith.
- 4. Be real—don't get caught up running someone else's race.
- 5. Stay healthy—physically, mentally and spiritually.
- 6. In all circumstances, don't quit believing in yourself. Success−it's up to you! □

WHY WAIT?

Contemporary gospel music artists talk a	hours.
reasons to wait until after marriage before	CC CC
indulging in sexual relations.	
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are telling us that we should wait for a monoga	
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"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is And God expressed it firs common to man; but God is faithful, who will not thousands of years	
allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, ago."	
but with the temptation will also make the way of —Steve Camp	
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TIME FOR DREAMS

TO SHAPE A DREAM, to give flesh and bones to that vision of your own possibilities, is both challenging and formidable. How do you loosen the grip of childhood and learn to do the things you know in your heart you should do?

This task of keeping your creative aspirations alive is not only challenging, it has its own motivation. It crackles with its own energy. Like other kinds of energy, however, it must be harnessed. Several things can help you accomplish this. Let's talk about one of them—the proper use of your time.

DEVELOP A SENSE OF URGENCY

This was the attitude of Paul. He said, "Another reason for right living is this: you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of the Lord is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far gone, the day of his return will soon be here. So quit the evil deeds of darkness and put on the armor of right living" (Romans 13:11, 12, TLB).

Make every day count, he is saying. Eliminate timewasters. When you are living for Jesus Christ, every moment is important. Understand that each of us will give an account of every day we live.

MARCUS V. HAND

FOSTER A FEELING OF CONFIDENCE

The advice we get from people around us is paradoxical. We are told to make bold commitments and, at the same time, urged to avoid getting "locked in." This often creates a tension between the desire for security and stability, and the desire to be free to explore an independent course.

This dilemma can be resolved by committing to Jesus Christ and to His will. He will give you the confidence to surge into each endeavor without fear. Jesus builds our confidence with His words, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34).

"Never commit your happiness to the future," C.S. Lewis reminds us. "Happy work is best done by the man who takes his long-term plans somewhat lightly and works from moment to moment as to the Lord. . . .

The present is the only time in which any duty can be done or any grace received."

Wasting time causes poverty, the Bible says. "Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare" (Proverbs 20:13, NIV).

PRACTICE THE HABIT OF EXCELLENCE

Look at your priorities and decide what is important. Then you can spend more time on the important things and less time on the unimportant.

Spend your time creatively. "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is" (Ephesians 5:15-17, NIV).

DEVELOP AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

"I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts!" (Ecclesiastes 3:10, 11).

"It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way" (Proverbs 19:2, *NIV*).

Start shaping your dream to-day! \square

Don't rely on hearsay. Read it for yourself in the Minutes.

o other conference has an impact on our church equal to the General Assembly. Decisions are made, appointments are given, and significant issues are debated. All this takes place on the floor of the General Assembly in the Tarrant County Convention Center, Fort Worth, Texas. Everyone in the Church of God needs to be knowledgeable of the latest policies and procedures established at this great meeting. Only one book captures the events of the General Assembly, The 1988 General Assembly Minutes.

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Holy Spirit. It also explains how our church views such controversial topics as divorce, movies, tobacco, liquor and ministerial discipline. You won't want to miss the 1988 edition.

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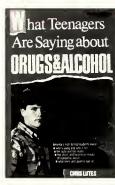
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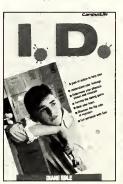
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Sometimes it seems like there is no middle ground between those who claim there are no absolutes and those who believe that everything is absolutely wrong. The concerns of teenagers are far too complex to be resolved by a slogan on a T-shirt or a well intentioned cliché. Concerns like drugs and alcohol, sexuality, peer pressure, family issues, and personal acceptance.

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OCTOBER 1988 Lighted The Magazine for Pentecostal Youth 5 1988 ASTER IS BETTER **FOUR DOWN UNDER (An Aussie Adventure)**

CAN PHYSICAL FITNESS HURT? • FIRST PRIORTY

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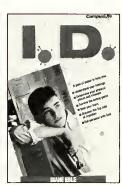


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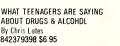
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OCTOBER 1988

Read of the adventures of four who went to Australia this summer . . . of Samantha's career frustrations, brought on because she is a woman . . . of how to stay healthy and safe . . . of putting God first . . . and of the most important matter. This month's short story talks about the need for speed. . . .



Four Down Under P. 10



For Sports Enthusiasts P. 17

VOLUME 59, NO. 10

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 Four Down Under

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 A Lee College coach and trainer talks about muscle strain.
- **20** Surprised by People
 Beneath the weirdest exterior lies, sometimes, the most common people. . . .
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- Best Film of the Year—Gold Through the Fire, Edward T. McDougal Films
- Best Actor—Charles Harlan, Gold Through the Fire
- Best Supporting Actor Kris Wolff - Gold Through the Fire
- Best Director—Edward T. Mc-Dougal, Gold Through the Fire



 Best Documentary Film—A Winnable War, Focus on the Family



 Best Children's Film—Bible Walk, Educational Evangelism/ Word, Inc.

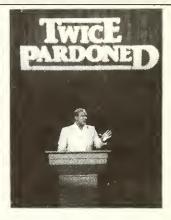
CROWN AWARDS

THE CROWN AWARD for the year was presented to Edward T. McDougal Films for *Gold Through the Fire*. The Crown Awards are given annually by the Christian Film and Video Association. Its 14th annual convention was held recently in San Antonio, Texas.

The award for Best Actress and cinemagraphics arts was presented to Sally Murphy for her role as Darby in the film Love Note. Love Note was produced by Ken Anderson Films. The Best Actor award went to Charles Harlan for his role as Peter in Gold Through the Fire. Here is a complete list of winners:



- Best Youth Film—Love Note, Ken Anderson Films
- Best Actress—Sally Murphy, Love Note
- President's Award—Heinz Fussle
- Founder's Award—Wendell Moody



- Best Evangelistic Film Twice Pardoned, Focus on the Family
- Best Film Series—Twice Pardoned, Focus on the Family
- Best Individual Non-Dramatic Presentation—Harold Morris,-Twice Pardoned



 Best Cinematography/Editing— Distinctively Human, Moody Institute of Science



 Best Supporting Actress— Alyson Davis, Thin Ice

Why Teens Don't Use Pot

Marijuana use among teens has fallen drastically in the past decade. A survey of high school seniors was conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. Here are the top 10 reasons teens don't use pot:

- 68% are concerned about possible physical damage.
- 67% are concerned about possible psychological damage.
- 62% don't feel like getting high.
- 54% feel it might lead to stronger stuff.
- 52% are concerned about possible addiction.
- 52% say marijuana is against their belief.
- 51% are concerned about losing control of themselves.

- 47% don't like being with people who use it.
- 44% are concerned about getting arrested.
- 37% say their friends don't use it

"Cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education."

Mark Twain

Teens Go to Church

Some 52 percent of American teenagers attend church or religious services, according to a Gallup Youth Survey. Here is the breakdown by region:

- South—62 percent
- Midwest—51 percent
- East-46 percent
- West-45 percent

— Group





A National Opinion Research Center survey of 2,203 parents reveals a list of things parents most want for their kids. According to this survey your parents wish you would:

- Think for yourself
- Learn to obey
- Help others when they need help
- · Learn to work hard
- Learn to be well-liked or popular. □

— Group





WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE RELIGIOUS GROUP AND WHY?

"My favorite group is Petra because they have very good music. They are also a great witness for God."

—Tina Hankins Age 14

"Carman would have to be my first pick. I like the contemporary sound with words that are uplifting to God."

—James Ballard Age 20 "Stryper is my favorite religious group. I think they are really good, and they teach the Word of God."

—Marcia Pruitt Age 14

"I really enjoy Darrell Mansfield's music. I heard him in concert. He is an interesting speaker, and his music was an upbeat style I really like."

—Greg Pruitt Age 18 "Sandi Patti has one of the greatest Christian ministries in music today. Not only is she a great artist, but she makes Jesus shine in everything she does."

–Kim Ballard Age 17



College Park Youth Group in Cocoa, Fla.

From left, Marcia Pruitt, Greg Pruitt, James Ballard, Kim Ballard, youth leaders Kevin Ballard and Regina Ballard, Frank Gay, Tina Hankins and Lisa Blankenship "Without a doubt my favorite religious group is Isaac Air Freight. They deliver a good Christian message while using humor everyone can relate to."

–Frank Gay Age 18

"My favorite religious groups are Harvest and Stryper. I like them because they sing the Word of God."

Lisa BlankenshipAge 13



HAVE YOU TRIED THE NEW EXCLUSIVE YOUTH TALKLINE

Each month *Lighted Pathway* publishes a monthly topic or survey question. When you call YOUTH TALKLINE follow this procedure:

- 1. Dial the YOUTH TALKLINE number: 6154 SURVEY, or (615) 478-7839.
- At the sound of the tone, speak up clearly.
- 3. Give your full name, age, city and state.

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4. Respond to the topic of the month.

Lighted Pathway will endeavor to answer all your questions, either by correspondence or through an article in the magazine. If you wish a personal response, be sure to give your address on the YOUTH TALKLINE.

YOUTH TALKLINE SUBJECT:

If Jesus was elected President of the United States, the first thing He would do is . . .

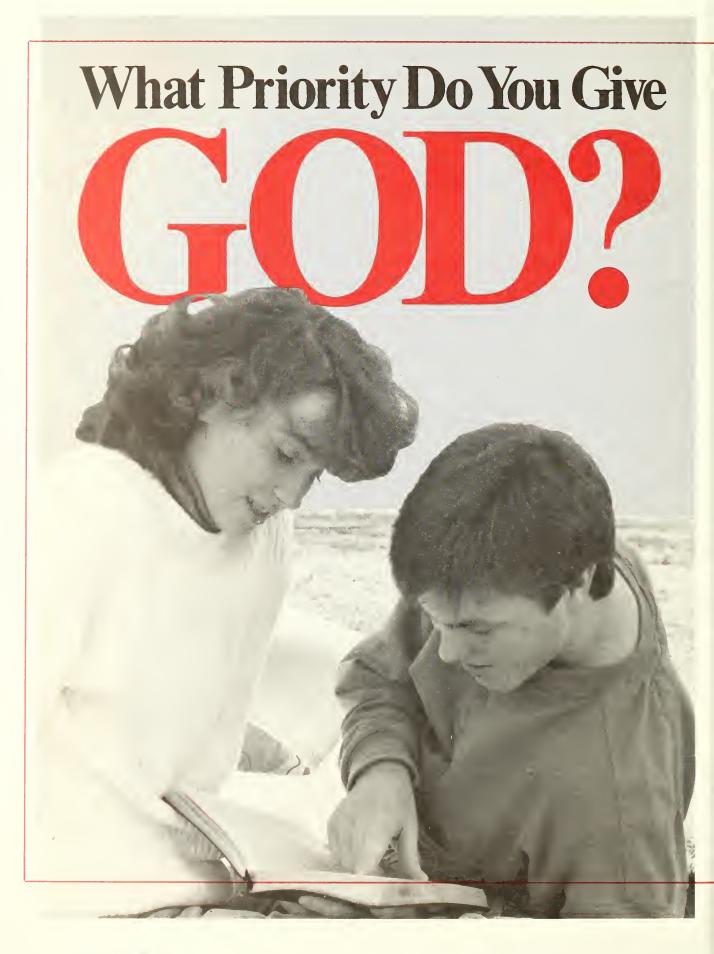


I think the *Lighted Pathway* is a big help to the young people. I teach the youth in my church on Wednesday nights. I really do like teaching and working with them. I've grown to love them as my family. I would like to correspond with other young people.

-Mary Beanblossom Age 12 Lexington, NC

I do not like competitive sports in public schools because of the competition and the jealousy between schools. However, I do like competitive sports with fun directors at church, such as volleyball, badminton and other sports. I like to have fun with my friends at church. I also like to dance in the Spirit if God moves me to, and I like to speak in tongues if the Lord moves me to. I want to do all the good things He would want me to, if He moves me. I just praise Jesus.

-Rick Moore Belfast, ME



TELEVISION AND SPORTS impact our lives today.

So does music.

For example, some people will pay \$600,000 for a 30-second television commercial during the Super Bowl in January. They do it because television sells and their priority is to sell a product.

More than 500,000 people still visit Elvis Presley's grave in Memphis each year, despite the fact he died more than 10 years ago. Teens give high priority to sports, music and the stars who represent them.

But what about the Christian? Where should his or her priorities lie?

Jesus said, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33, NIV). Later He warned, "The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life My Father will honor the one who serves me" (John 12:25, 26, NIV).

A Christian youth leader shared these suggestions with the teens at our church:

- Try giving up all television viewing for seven days. Completely ignore the TV set in your home.
- Avoid reading secular magazines or a newspaper.
- Give the time you save to God by studying His Word, memorizing scriptures and praying.

• Read only inspirational books with spiritual messages.

David decided to give it a try.

SHIRLEY DEVER

Since he comes from a broken home and lives with his father, this was not too hard to do. His dad works long hours and is not home during prime-time TV.

David spent time delving into the Bible and praying. He also used his extra time to work on a hobby. He made a beautiful lamp for his dad as a surprise for Father's Day.

"Wow! I'm finally getting to do some of the things I've been wanting to do for a long time," he told a friend. "I didn't realize how much time I'd wasted in front of our TV!"

Did David go back to his old habits after a week? Not really. He admits, "Now I mainly catch the evening news and a few special programs. But I'm determined to use the OFF button a lot."

David received a bonus for his efforts. Since he had spent more time in studying for exams at school, he made the honor roll! Judy gives God a high priority; she spends considerable time working for Him. She has a lovely soprano voice and uses it for God's glory by singing in the church choir. It requires an evening of practice each week plus a Sunday commitment to sing for the morning worship service. She is an assistant Sunday school teacher and attends a Christian youth group. Still she takes time to study the Bible and pray each day.

* * * *

These are all time-honored ways to give God high priority in your life.

However, it is possible to be too busy for God. If you do not take the time to listen to a friend in need or to show interest in a new student at school, you let God down. He loves and helps people through His children. He wants you to be flexible so you can help Him out in the emergency situations that are sure to come your way.

Loving and helping others is one of the best possible ways to serve your Lord and Master.

How high a priority do you give God? Only *you* can answer this question honestly before God. If you choose to give Him more of yourself and your time, you can't lose! No one has ever been able to outgive or outlove the Lord! □

Shirley Dever is a freelance writer from Orcas, Wash.



DOROTHY LAMB

IN JUNE FOUR LEE COLLEGE students boarded an airplane for Brisbane, Australia. They had been selected to work as a host and hostesses at World Expo 88 in the Pavilion of Promise.

The Pavilion of Promise was the Christian presence at World Expo 88. It was sponsored by more than 800 churches and thousands of Christians throughout Australia. Bruce, Penny, Judy and Julie were to join young adults from countries around the world for an adventure beyond their wildest dreams.

BRUCE EDWARDS

Bruce Edwards, team leader, had just graduated from Lee with a bachelor of arts degree in intercultural studies. This would be his last missionary trek with the Pioneers for Christ (PFC). Bruce is from Forsyth, Ga., and the son of George and Virginia Edwards. He came to know Christ at a young age in the Juliette Church of God.

"I became a Christian because of the love the people had for me," Bruce shared. "They showed me real Christian love."

Bruce was encouraged by his pastor to attend Lee. On campus he was active in PFC. He was team leader of the Shut-in Team, vice-president of Local Ministries and, during his senior year, president of PFC. Bruce has participated in weekend invasions throughout the southeastern United States. He participated in a missions team each summer. He went to Grand Rapids, Mich., the first year; then to Trinadad and Tobago in the Caribbean. Last year he went to the western United States.

Bruce was asked who had made the greatest impact on his life.

"My Sunday school teacher, Sister Myrtle Chapman, has played an important role in my Christian life," he said. "Also, the Rev. Billy R. Baker, my college roommate's dad. Since I have known him, he has shown me what living a true Christian life is all about and what a true minister of the Word should be."

JUDY SCOTT

Judy Scott, from Flat Rock, Ala., is the daughter of Idell Horton. A marketing major, she transferred to Lee from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Judy says she asked Jesus



Left to right: Judy Scott, Bruce Edwards, Penny Bolin, Julie Maloney

to come into her heart as a young child; however, during her teen years she slipped away from the Lord. Three years ago the Holy Spirit began to convict her as she drove down the freeway. The next Sunday she was in church where she recommitted her life to Christ. From that moment she has been on an upward trend.

Judy is an honor student at Lee and active in PFC. As vice-president of the Local Works Team, she is involved in the shut-in ministry, the jail team, the cult team, the nursing home ministry and Kids Klubs.

PENNY BOLIN

Penny Bolin, from Wauchula, Fla., is the daughter of Earl and Glenda Bolin. When she graduated from Hardee County High School, she was in the top 10 percent of her graduating class and in Who's Who Among American High School Students.

After earning an associates of arts degree at South Florida Community College, Penny transferred to Lee College. She is an accounting major and a senior this year.

Penny accepted Jesus as her Savior at the age of 12. She has never missed Sunday school in her 21 years. Needless to say, she has also been very active in her church. She has taught Sunday school classes,

played the clarinet in the church band and sung in the youth choir.

JULIE MALONEY

Julie Maloney, also from Florida, is the daughter of Roslyn and Robert Maloney. Julie is a Christian education major and an honor student at Lee. She attends the South Cleveland Church of God.

Julie became involved in PFC because she wanted to be active for God. "The friends I had possessed a love that was beautiful. They accepted me without question. They were involved in PFC so I knew that must be the club for me. Working in the club gave me meaning—an outlet to



"We all had daily chores. This is a shot of the wash-up crew after lunch."

minister to people. I have met the most beautiful people all over the United States and the world through PFC.

"Our director, Brother Charles Beach, is a wonderful man, and he is my role model. He has been a blessing to me and to others who have come and gone through PFC. My experiences have helped me grow. I have gained practical experience the classroom could never have given.

PAVILION OF PROMISE

The Pavilion of Promise was a success for the Christians in Queensland. During the first 66 days more than 250,000 people passed through its doors. They heard the gospel presented through lights, lasers, film and dance. Their film won the "Best Film at Expo" award, and the Pavilion of Promise was voted the third best pavilion to see at the World's Fair.

"Everyone, no matter the denomination or religious background, exemplified a true Christian lifestyle, a true walk with God," Bruce said. "Being in Australia has been a dream come true. I never dreamed it could be this great. At the Pavilion of Promise we have seen people come to Jesus Christ. We have heard encouraging comments from the crowds. Every position I worked was wonderful. I

learned that regardless of our religious background or where we are from, if we believe in Jesus Christ, we are all part of the body of Christ. This truth has become so real on this trip."

Judy loved Australia and felt it was a blessing to be involved in the ministry. She loved "learning the language" and trying new things—like kangaroo meat!

"Wish I could stay here longer," she said. "I love the Pavilion of Promise. It's a wonderful concept for evangelism. I've learned to rely on the Holy Spirit to speak to people's hearts. I was impressed by the fact we all worked together so well.

"It was a good opportunity to be involved with the different denominations and to visit other churches. I've always tried to be open to Christians of all denominations. I want to be able to touch and relate to people everywhere.

"My personal evangelism class at Lee and my experience with the PFC helped prepare me for working at the Pavilion of Promise. Also, the summer missions trip helped. I have been able to see more clearly how every type of ministry can be used of God."

Julie called the trip "the most exciting and beautiful time I have ever had. It is like I am still dreaming . . . Am I really here, 13,000 miles from home? I thank God for the opportunity. I knew He wanted me on this trip. When I first heard about it, I realized the responsibility involved, and God just let me know He was in control.

"During the past year God has brought me to the place where I have total trust in Him. Nothing else matters, for I have my eyes on Him.

"Australia is beautiful. It reminds me a lot of California because of the coastline, the mountains and the tropical vegetation. Having Devonshire tea in the mountains was a memorable experience here. The whole trip has been relaxing and peaceful. The atmosphere welcomes you.

"I learned much from the Pavilion of Promise lectures and the Christianity Explained course, but I guess the main thing I learned was that Christians are the same in Christ. We should not let little things divide us. We can come together with one goal."

Penny liked her job at the Pavilion of Promise so much she decided to stay an extra two weeks after the rest of the team left.

"I will always remember the friends I have made," Penny said. "It was amazing how fast we bonded together. We were all placed in a communal living area for the first three weeks. There at The Lodge we were able to experience the Australian lifestyle. We tried real Aussie tucker: foods like trifle, meat pies, lamingtons, lamb chops, papaw, passion fruit and vegemite.

"I have met some wonderful people from all over the world. In a bond of Christian love and unity, we have had the common task of presenting the gospel to the people of Australia. No matter our backgrounds, differences were laid aside as we united as one.

"The Pavilion of Promise presented the gospel so that non-churched people could understand. Being a guide there gave me tremendous opportunity to meet people from all over Australia and the world. Each new day provided opportunities to witness to thousands of new people as they passed through the doors of the Pavilion of Promise."

Dorothy Lamb, a graduate of Lee College and the School of Theology, lives in Brisbane and helped coordinate the Pavilion of Promise.









- A-Dorothy Lamb
- B-Pastor Nevielle Nielson; wife Elizabeth; and daughter, Karen from the Bethel Church of God.
- C-The international group poses in front of their theme.
- D-Brothers and sisters from "Down Under": Doug and Faith Jones, and Robyn and Carl Nielson in Caboolture, Queensland.



Bible Study IFESTYLES

HAVE YOU EVER STUDIED yourself in a mirror and tried to figure out what it is about you that you like and what it is you don't like? Guys as well as girls engage in this popular pastime.

And it's no wonder.

Messages bombard us constantly on TV, reinforcing an unrealistic emphasis on physical appearance. TV girls are always gorgeous; guys are always handsome "hunks." Advertising media—magazines, radio, TV, bill-boards, bulk mailouts—keep up the continual, subtle pressure by vigorously underscoring physical looks.

Successful people, they would have us believe, are always perfect physical specimens. And if not, they seem to be saying, you don't have a chance.

Constant mental pressures like these can overwhelm you. School pressure is just as bad. And pressure from parents. Although you know your parents wish only the best for you, have you ever noticed how they always seem to pounce on you?

"Let me see that report card!"
"What did you get this time?"
"Can't you do better than that?"

"What's the matter with you?"
Well, the truth is, nothing is
the matter with you. You may



CARING FOR YOURSELF IS CARING ABOUT GOD'S SPIRIT IN YOU

not have studied enough, or you may have prepared adequately. You may have given a half-hearted effort, or you may have given it all you had. Something may or may not be wrong with your preparation, but nothing is wrong with you. It's easy under certain pressures to start believing that somehow you must not be adequate.

What you are is not deter-

mined by what somebody else says about you, of course. You already know this. Nor can you determine what you are by comparing yourself to a successfulperson image on TV. If these things are giving you a warped opinion of yourself, it's time to get serious.

Remember going into a "house of mirrors"? One mirror made you look warped. You laughed at the image, however, because you knew that to change it you had only to walk away from the mirror.

You carry a personal image of yourself around with you just as surely as you carry a picture in your wallet. That mental photograph reflects how you feel about yourself. How you feel about yourself affects, in turn, the way you live.

How you live, your lifestyle, reflects your experience with God. The way to change how you feel about yourself is to walk away from the world's warped mirrors and look at you in God's Word. He made you special. When God designed you, He made an original. You are not an accident of nature. You are "fearfully and wonderfully made."

Let's hold up the mirror of the Word and examine our lifestyle. Choosing your lifestyle is one of the most important things you will ever do. THE PSALMIST used a line in 139:14, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." The excellent, complex way God made you and me has been the subject of study by the best minds of every age. Think of these amazing facts:

- More than half of your body's 206 bones are in your hands and feet.
- One cubic inch of bone can withstand a two-ton force.
- The human skull is made up of 29 different bones.
- If all 600 muscles in your body pulled in one direction at the same time, you could lift 25 tons.
- Your eye can distinguish nearly eight million differences in colors.
- Your ears can discriminate among more than 300,000 different sound tones.
- Your digestive tract is 30 feet long.
- The surface area of your lungs is 20 times greater than the surface area of your skin.
- Your heart pumps more than 2,000 gallons of blood every day.
- There are 1,300 nerve endings per square inch in your fingertips. The only parts of the body more sensitive to the touch are the lips, the tongue and the tip of your nose.
- Blinking your eyes causes them to be closed for a half hour each day.
- In an average lifetime the hair on your head grows about 25 feet.

In light of the amazing way we are put together, let's look at two passages of Scripture:

1. According to *Genesis 1:26, 27,* what was the only pattern God used when He made you?

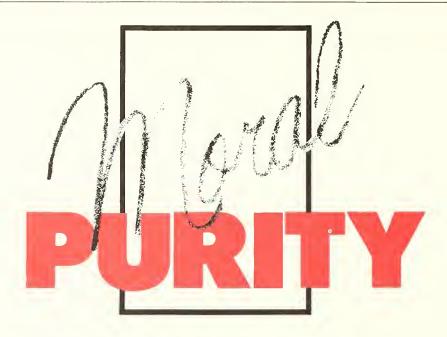


BibleStudy



2. Read <i>1 Corinthians 6:19, 20</i> . List five reasons the body is important to the way we live as a Christian:
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5.
1.
2.
3. "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you will appear with him in glory Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator" (Colossians 3:1-4, 10, <i>NIV</i>).
4. <i>Philippians</i> 1:20. "(It is) my earnest expectation and hope that Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death." What can you do to magnify God in your body?

BibleStudy



WE WILL ENGAGE in those activities which glorify God in our body and which avoid the fulfillment of the lust of the flesh. We will read, watch and listen to those things which are of positive benefit to our spiritual well-being.

Glorifying God in Our Body

Our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost and we are to glorify God in our body(1). We are to walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh(2). Examples of fleshly behavior which do not glorify God are noted in several passages of Scripture(3). Sinful practices which are made prominent and condemned in these scriptures include homosexuality, adultery, worldly attitudes (such as hatred, envy, jealousy), corrupt communication (such as gossip, angry outbursts, filthy words), stealing, murder and drunkenness and witchcraft. Witchcraft has to do with the practices of the occult, which are forbidden by God and lead to the worship of Satan.

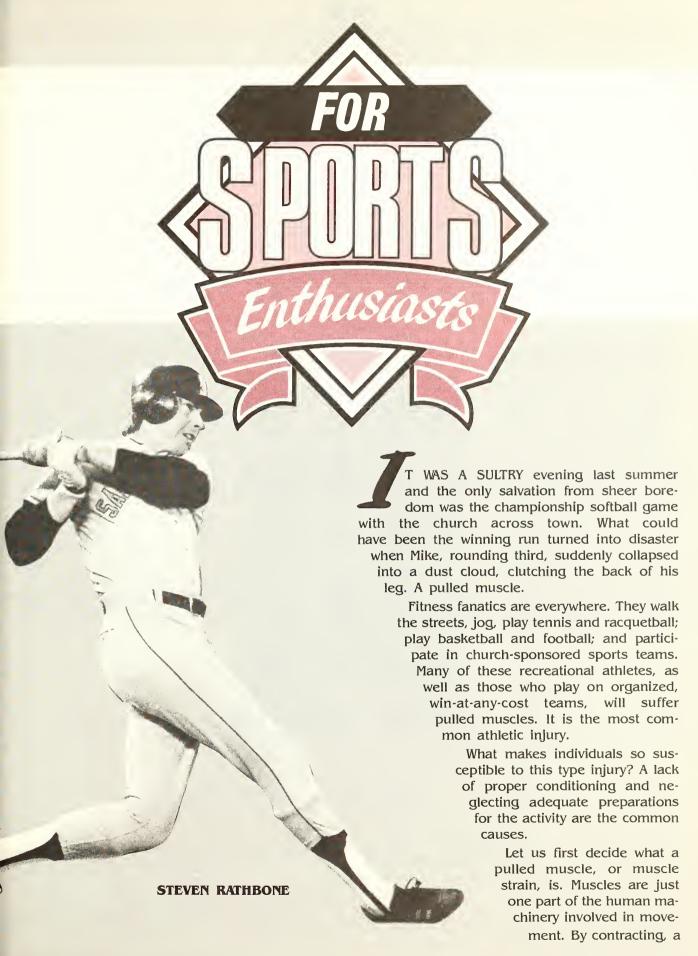
Reading, Watching and Listening

The literature we read, the programs we watch and the music we listen to profoundly affect the way we feel, think and behave. It is imperative, then, that the Christian read, watch and listen to those things which inspire, instruct and challenge to a higher plane of living. Therefore, literature, programs, and music are worldly in content or pornographic in nature must be avoided. A Christian is not to attend (or watch on television) movies or theatrical performances of a demoralizing nature(4).

Benefiting Spiritual Well-Being

The use of leisure time in the life of a Christian should be characterized by those activities which edify both the individual and the body of Christ(5). We are to avoid places and practices which are of this world. Consequently, a Christian must not be a part of any other types of entertainment which appeal to the fleshly nature and/or bring discredit to the Christian testimony(6).

- (1) Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 10:31
- (2) Galatians 5:16
- (3) Romans 1:24; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8
- (4) Romans 13:14; Philippians 4:8
- (5) Romans 6:13; 1 CorInthians 10:31, 32
- (6) 2 CorInthians 6:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:21, 22; 1 John 2:15-17
- -from "The Practical Commitments of the Church of God"





muscle pulls on the tendon by which it is attached to the bone. A muscle, actually a bundle of fibers, can be stretched to approximately one-and-a-half times its resting length. When a muscle is stretched farther than its length will allow, the fibers may be damaged or torn, resulting in a pulled muscle.

Another frequent cause of muscle strain is muscle fatigue. In other words, as muscles themselves become tired, they are more easily injured. Usually, a fatigue-related strain involves the weaker muscle of a paired set, such as the hamstrings (on the back of the thigh) and quadriceps (on the front of the thigh).

Flexibility describes the degree to which a joint will move. Flexibility is limited by two factors: the elasticity of the muscle itself and the joint's range of motion. Since the joint's range of motion is controlled by such things as the bones themselves. ligaments and scar tissue resulting from previous injuries, it cannot readily be improved. On the other hand, muscle elasticity can be improved. When it is,

there will be a dramatic decrease in pulled-muscle injuries.

Unfortunately, flexibility is an often-neglected part of fitness. It can be consciously improved, just as strength can, and should be a part of any fitness or conditioning program. This can be done by stretching.

Correct stretching is slow and gentle. In the beginning you become acquainted with your own



muscles. You should never stretch to the point of pain; stretch only until a firm, steady resistance is felt. As the muscle unit adapts to this constantly increasing pull, a greater joint range will be developed. This is not a matter of competition. Each individual has a different amount of normal flexibility and different potential for developing greater flexibility.

A slow, steady stretching technique is referred to as static stretching. It is in direct opposito bounce stretching. Bounce stretching is unproductive because it activates the stretch reflex, a protective mechanism built into our muscles that can cause muscle strain, which you are trying to prevent.

On the other hand, static stretching involves isolating a particular muscle or muscle group and stretching it until resistance is felt. Then, hold the stretch for about 20 seconds. It is the safest type of stretching because its slow, progressive technique actually increases the tendon and muscle length over a period of several weeks.

In some joints the bony struc-

ust as an athlete's strength training strengthens his muscles, the stretching program prepares the muscles for the rigors of unnatural positions and movements.



ture sets a definite limit on the range of motion. The elbow joint is one. At the ankle, knee or hip, the range of motion is limited by the soft tissues—muscle, ligaments, tendons and skin. These joints, then, are where our efforts are concentrated. Stretching and increasing the elasticity of a muscle will permit the joint to move through a greater range without strain, tear or serious injury.

A football player in preseason training, for example, follows a stretching program corresponding with the pace and intensity of his weight training program. He pays particular attention to his legs because of their size. These muscles are usually tight because they are the largest in the body. Their normal activities do not prepare them for the awkward positions encountered on the playing field. Just as the strength training program strengthens his muscles, the stretching program prepares the muscles for the rigors of unnatural positions and movements. The more flexible an individual is, the less likely that individual will suffer a muscle strain.

The best help for a muscle strain is to prevent it. But how do you care for a muscle strain once it occurs? The first step in treating a pulled muscle is to apply ice to the injury. Believe it or not, ice decreases the pain. More importantly, it helps control inflammation.

Gel packs and artificial ice can be hazardous because they adapt to the temperature of the environment in which they are stored. Most freezers are maintained at -10 to 0 degrees, and cold packs at these temperatures can easily cause frostbite when applied directly to the skin. Ice, on the other hand, is relatively safe. Its lowest temperature range is the freezing point of water. Use your own tolerance to cold as a quide and you should have no problem with frostbite.

After keeping the ice in place for 20 to 30 minutes, an elastic bandage should be applied. The purpose of the bandage is two-fold: it supports the injured muscles, giving relief from pain; and it restricts movement, helping the healing process. The bandage should be worn as long

as the discomfort of the injury persists, except at night.

Your level of activity should be governed by pain. Pain serves a useful purpose. Pain is God's way of letting you know you are trying to do too much too early. If the pain increases to an uncomfortable level, decrease the level of activity. As the injury heals the level of pain should decrease. This progressive process eventually leads to unrestricted, pain-free activity.

Muscle strains can be aggravating. They can easily become a chronic or persistent injury if they are ignored or not taken care of properly. If there is ever any doubt about an injury, your doctor should be consulted.

Whether you are involved in school sports, play on a church team or have started a personal fitness program, you can enjoy it if you follow the proper guidelines.

"Bodily exercise profits . . . but godliness is profitable for all things" (1 Timothy 4:8). \Box

Steve Rathbone, a coach and teacher at Lee College, is certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association.





SURPRISED BY PEOPLE

HAVE YOU EVER SAT in the mall and classified the people who walk by? I've found myself judging passersby: "I bet he's an Einstein. She's probably a dizzy blond. He's a snobby preppy for sure."

I've discovered, however, that preconceptions based on outward appearance are often misconceptions.

A withered woman at my church surprised me with her inner liveliness. I'd often seen her wrinkled hands pass over the ivories of the black grand piano at church. One day Mom and I visited her, and I thought, This is going to be boring. She'll probably moan about her arthritis and then hold us captive while we endure 15 photo albums of grandchildren.

We followed her into the kitchen, her stooped figure topped with snowy hair. I knew then we were captured. She began talking, but not of pains. She asked if we had seen the previous Redskins game. She went on to spin tales of her early life in the church. She told of repairing shattered windows, building by faith and seeing healing miracles. After an exciting two-hour visit, I left with the feeling that although she is an older person, her shoulders bent and her hair cottony, she has a lot of love and wisdom to contribute to life.

Besides forming inaccurate judgments based on aging, wrinkles and gray hair that accompany mounting years, I've formed misconceptions about my classmates based on the way they dress.

Sometimes appearances can fool you . . .

TAMI FRAZIER

On the first day of high school. Kendra's costume shocked me. As she slid into gym class, I gaped at the pink bangs dripping into her eyes. As I observed her green, blue and red plaid skirt worn with a purple blouse, I thought, She's the kind of person my parents wish they could shelter me from. No one could look like that and be a decent person. She probably does LSD and spears babies.

Kendra continued to wear outrageous apparel throughout our sophomore year. Her bangs changed from pink to green to blue. In a boring class one day, I began talking to Kendra and discovered that she was decent. I learned that we both attended Pentecostal churches. Needless to say, her appearance had caused an uproar in her church.

Through the few years we've been friends, I've watched Kendra's rainbow bangs transform from red to brown to midnight black. I've seen her go from pastel dresses to long purple skirts. But she continues to delight my parents with her broad world view. No matter what she is wearing, I know she is a friend I can chat with about guys, the coming group of exchange students or her love of

the Spanish culture. She has taught me that a person doesn't have to fit my dress code to be "straight" and friendly.

In high school I judged another classmate to be bizarre because of her drab green anklelength skirts, her green army jackets and black combat boots. In history class I stared at her frizzy bobbed hair and wondered, Why are her books and clothes plastered with peace signs? In the halls I was afraid to talk to her because I thought she would attack me about America's Central American policy.

I did respect her for her writing ability, though. One day I sat down next to her and asked her about poetry. When I walked away, I felt I'd made contact with someone incredibly like myself.

Ann, in her long black skirt and orange and green gigantic paisley blouse, and I, in my pastel pink knee-length skirt and lacy white blouse, conversed for hours about a surprisingly similar outlook on life. We talked about giving ourselves, working in the Peace Corps, teaching English to refugees and being nonconformists. I learned that her appearance was her statement that she doesn't like to spend a lot of time on her looks because she believes the inner person is more important than outward appearances.

I learned from Ann—and from many other people—that if I look past a person's outward appearance and the preconceptions I form, I can find positive surprises in the inner person.



TANDING TALL AND ERECT, the military officer announced to the graduating class and to their families and friends, "Samantha S. Eagle has been accepted to the United States Air Force Officer Training School. In September she will go to Denver to begin her schooling. Will Samantha please come up and accept her selection?"

Samantha was so overwhelmed she tripped and nearly fell on her face while walking to the podium.

Samantha's fascination with flying had begun when her parents gave her a kite for her seventh birthday. The kite looked like an eagle when it was flying high in the air. Native Americans living on a southern Colorado reservation, her family thought it would be an appropriate gift since Samantha's last name is Eagle.

The kite so intrigued Samantha she began building her own. It amazed her to see them stay up in the air with no apparent support. The desert winds usually blew old newspapers onto the reservation from nearby towns, so she used them for materials.

Reading the newspapers before she cut them up to make kites was another hobby. It interested her as much as her school books. Not that she didn't enjoy school. She loved it and always managed to get good grades, but the scavenged newspapers provided additional learning. Samantha's fascination with kites led to her interest in all man-made flying objects. She would lie in the sand near the reservoir and watch jets fly overhead, often imagining herself flying just as the kites and the jets did.

Model planes were her next building project. Samantha used the same materials—paper and sticks—she used to build kites. She kept up her kite building, however, because she could not afford to buy a motor to power her model planes.

In the eighth grade Samantha decided she wanted to be a pilot. Not just an ordinary pilot, however. She wanted to fly jet fighters.

Samantha knew she would have to work hard, but she didn't know where to begin. Her mother suggested it might help her achieve her goal if she joined the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) at school. Samantha spent four years of high school in ROTC and still remained in the top 5 percent of her class.

It took a lot of work, but Samantha felt her goal was worth working for.

Approaching graduation, Samantha filled out every scholarship application she could get her hands on. Some schools sent questionnaires back to be filled out. She faithfully filled them out. She knew this was her only chance to become a fighter pilot. Then the good news was announced at graduation. Samantha knew she was not home free yet, but she was a lot closer than when she decided to work toward being a pilot.

School started in September,

In the eighth grade Samantha decided she wanted to be a jet fighter pilot.

and Samantha quickly learned there was more to it than just the book work. She had to participate in physical training, drills and a host of other activities. But Samantha kept faith in herself and pushed onward.

At the end of her second year, cadets were given the chance to select the job they would like to have. Samantha, of course, wanted to be a fighter pilot. Everyone told her women were not allowed to fly fighter aircraft, but she decided to try it anyway.

She put down fighter pilot as her first choice, then listed four other choices.

Six months went by, and finally Samantha was notified what her job would be when she graduated. To her surprise

she was told she would be assigned to train and work with flight simulators.

The disappointment stung.

Crushed in spirit, Samantha allowed the letdown to get to her. She became slack in her duties. She began to neglect the minor details that had always made her stand out from the rest. Her classroom work suffered.

When her grades started to slide, the colonel called Samantha in to talk to her about performance. Samantha explained how she had had a longtime dream of being a fighter pilot. She told how she had applied herself. She vented her frustration in not getting the job she applied for.

To her surprise the colonel responded with empathy. The colonel, a woman, explained how she herself had once dreamed of being a fighter pilot. She told how she had built on her shattered dreams rather than letting them destroy her.

She got through to Samantha.

Today Samantha teaches would-be pilots how to fly. She takes cadets up in jets and trains them before they can solo, or go alone. Although she will never be allowed to engage in combat, Samantha knows that many of the men who would be called on will have been trained by her.

Today she is realizing her dream in ways she did not suspect.

Today, Samantha Eagle soars. \square

EAN INTO IT, AMY," Carole shouted from the sidewalk in front of the bank. "Bend vour knees."

Amy glanced over her shoulder at her friend. At the top of the incline near the automatic teller, Carole stepped onto her skateboard and gave a small push with her other foot. In a moment Carole passed her on the way down the hill.

She sure can skate, Amy marveled as she struggled to maintain her balance on her brother's old skateboard, Slowly she wavered to the bottom of the hill.

"How can you go so fast?" Amy asked. "I'm afraid I'll fall off."

"It's easier to keep your balance going faster," Carole said. "The board doesn't weave so much. Faster is better." Carole smiled as she stepped on one end of the skateboard causing the other end to rise. The bright yellow skateboard winked in the sunlight. "But it really helps to have a great board," she added.

Amy had to admit that it was

a great board. And Carole was right to be proud of it. It had been a birthday present from Carole's aunt.

"I'd really like a new skateboard," Amy said, "but I'm broke. My brother's old skateboard will have to do until I've saved up enough."

"Let's go," Carole said.

"Okay."

Together the girls walked up the incline to the bank. Together they mounted their skateboards and pushed off. But no matter how hard Amy tried, Carole always beat her to the bottom.

"I need to rest," Amy said as they trudged up the hill. At the top she practically dropped onto the bank steps.

"But skating's fun," Carole protested as she sat down beside Amv.

"Not with this old board," Amy said shortly. She dismissed the scuffed red skateboard with a wave of her hand.

"Hi!" Amy called to an older couple as they approached the bank. The man nodded and the woman waved.

"Do you know them?" Carole asked as the couple walked toward the automatic teller.

"Not really," Amy said. "I've just seen them here a few times when we've been skating. They always seem so happy walking along together. He always wears that tan jacket and she always carries that red purse."

While Amy and Carole watched, the man punched buttons at the automatic teller.

"Imagine being that old," Carole said. "Your skateboard was meant for someone their speed."

"They're okay," Amy said. "There's nothing bad about being older. Why, I bet they're wonderful grandparents."

"You don't have to take it personally," Carole said. "I just meant that they were old." She paused before adding, "Do you want to skate?"

"Okay," Amy answered, "as long as my old board lasts."

Carole was waiting for her by the time she got to the bottom of the hill. When Amy reached

KAREN E. HONG



over to pick up her skateboard one of the wheels fell off.

"Great!" Amy moaned. "My skateboard just died."

"Let's go," Carole suggested.

Together they climbed the hill.

At the top Amy said, "Guess I might as well go home and bury my board."

"You really need a new one," Carole said.

"What's that?" Amy asked. Out of the corner of her eye she saw something papery next to the bank steps.

"What's what?" Carole asked.

Amy took a couple of steps and then bent to reach. "This," she said. Her eyes widened with surprise.

"What is it?" Carole asked.

"It's money," Amy said, pulling herself upright. "Twenty dollars."

"Really?" Carole squealed. "You're rich."

"Someone must have dropped it."

"And lucky you found it."

Amy looked at Carole. "I did

find it, didn't I!"

"You sure did. Boy, maybe now you'll have enough for a new skateboard."

"Maybe," Amy agreed. She could picture herself on a new blue skateboard, zipping down the hill in front of the bank. She would lean into it and bend her knees and the skateboard would absolutely fly.

"You're so lucky," Carole said. "Want to look at skate-boards on the way home?"

"Huh?" Amy pulled herself out of the daydream. "I can't. I've got to give this money back."

"Give it back?" Carole said. "What are you talking about? You found it."

"But it's not mine."

"But we don't know whose it is."

"Maybe the bank will know."

"Don't be crazy," Carole said. "How would the bank know who dropped twenty dollars? Take the money and run."

"But it belongs to someone else," Amy said. "It can't have been here long. The bill is still crisp and bright." Suddenly she thought of the older couple. "Did you notice anyone at this machine since the man with the tan jacket and the woman with the red purse?"

"No," Carole said shortly. "But they're gone. You should keep the money. You can get your skateboard faster."

Amy thought of the skate-board.

"I can't," she said. "I wouldn't be able to enjoy a new skate-board if I had to take something away from someone else to have it. Why, they may need the money for food or medicine. And even if they don't really need the money, it's not mine. This is one time that faster isn't better."

"But they're gone!" Carole protested.

Amy closed her eyes and pictured the couple.

Opening her eyes she said, "I think they usually go that way." She pointed down the street. "May I borrow your skateboard?"

"To catch up with Tan Jacket and Red Purse?" Carole asked.

Amy nodded. "Sometimes faster is better."





THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

MARCUS V. HAND

"SUICIDE SOLUTION," a frantic song by Ozzie Osborne, played in the tape player as a teen took her own life. This tragic scene has happened more than once.

Only gloomy people are morbid about death; but being human, we must always be conscious of our mortality. Taking a human life, something only God can give, is not a solution to any wrong—even if that life is your own. Death will come without any help from us.

A tourist from the East, visiting in the laid-back West, stopped in a sleepy town. He asked an old-timer: "What's the death rate out here?"

"Same as back East," came the reply. "One to a person."

Thus we know that each of us must die. Since this is true, it is important for us to spend our time focusing on things that count. Our most important task is to prepare for eternity.

When God created the first man a living being (Genesis 2:7*), He put eternity in Adam's heart. He has done the same for every human being born since that time (Ecclesiastes 3:11). This means that the moment you were born, you were given a soul that will never die. You will survive the death of your body; the real person inside you will live on in eternity.

The question follows naturally, Where will you spend eternity?

Biblical descriptions of the eternal destiny of the saved and the lost are vivid. The saved spend eternity in a pleasant place bathed within and without

in incomparable peace and joy. Lost souls spend eternity in a horrible, painful place Jesus decribed as "hell fire" (Matthew 18:9) where even the "worm does not die and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:44, 46, 48).

But in eternity, in heaven or hell, the soul still does not cease to exist—it lives on! The soul in hell, however, is lost and has lost. He or she has lost everything.

Jesus pointed out the importance of being and staying right with God like this: "What advantage is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?" (Luke 9:25).

Again, "what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36, 37).

Perhaps you are asking the question a man asked in Acts 16:30: —"What must I do to be saved?" It's as simple as A-B-C:

A—Acknowledge that you have sinned and need to be saved. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

B-Believe that God loves you, that He hears your prayer of repentance and that He forgives you. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

"'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved'" (Acts 16:31).

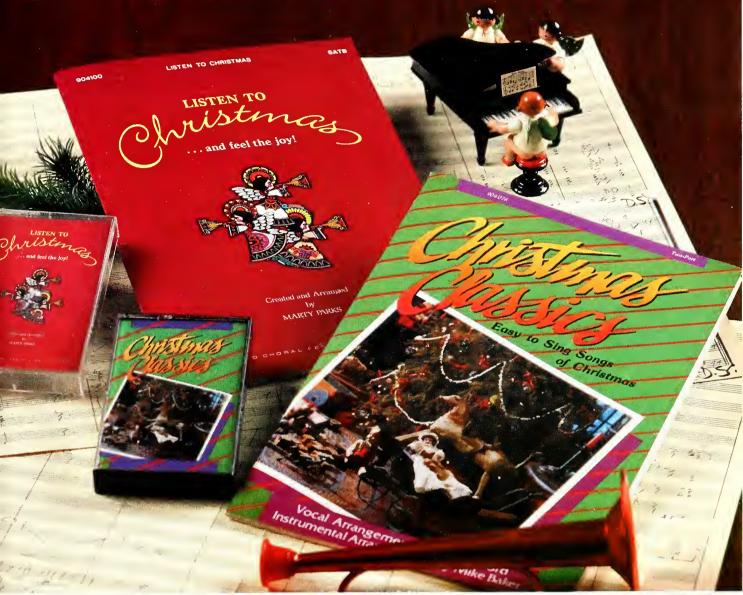
C-Confess to the world that you have received Jesus Christ into your heart. "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation" (Romans 10:9, 10).

God has placed a heavy burden in my heart for you as you read these words. I pray for your salvation. I am praying that you will accept Jesus into your heart now. Call your youth leader or your pastor if you need someone to pray with. Or you may want your parents to pray with you.

Let me know if you have accepted Christ as your Savior today. Write to this address: Marcus V. Hand, 1080 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, TN 37311, or call 1-615-478-7839.

* All Scripture references in this article are taken from the New King James Version.

Experience the Joy of Christmas with Great Music!



Listen to Christmas...and Feel the Joy!

Composer/arranger Marty Parks has put together a sacred choral festival for choir, children's voices, soloists and orchestra. It is designed to be used in concert form or as a sacred service with devotion and meditations. Includes songs as: Listen to Christmas! Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, There's a Song in the Air, Jesus Is Born, Oh, Holy Night, Music Fills the Air, Silent Night and more.

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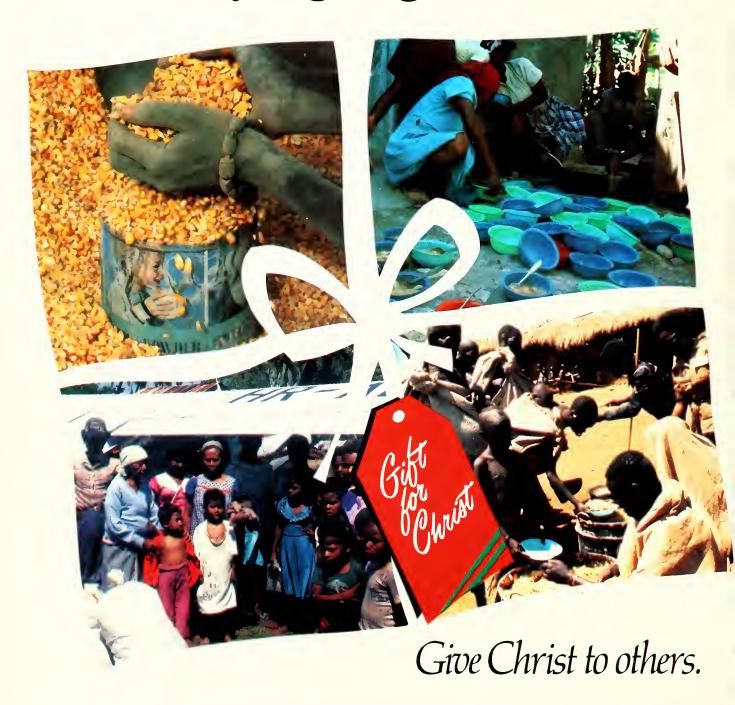
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Book Split-

What are you giving for Christmas?

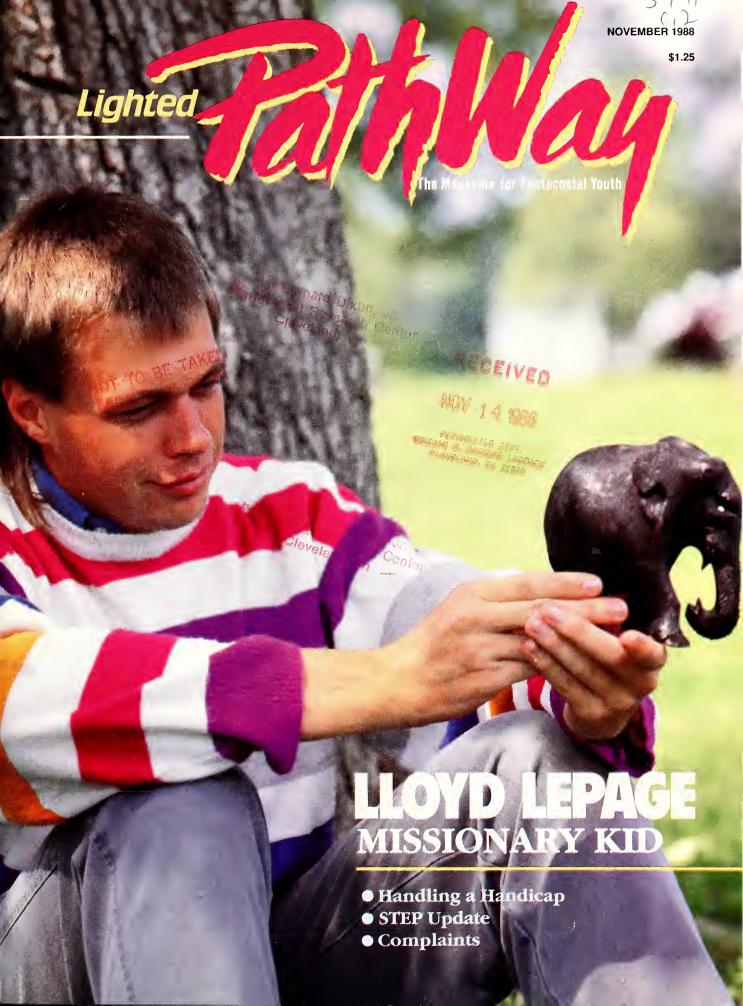


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VOLUME 59, NO. 11

Personal control and missions are twin themes in this month's issue. Teens do gain control over their lives, in spite of negative habits and physical handicaps. Lloyd's story describes what it is like to grow up on the mission field. If you'd like to participate in a short term missions experience next summer, see page 22.



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7	Learning to Gain Control Gerry Johnson has over-
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Photo credits: Jonne Crick-cover, p. 8

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Do Teens Read Books?

IF THEY DO, what do they read? Look at your reading material, and see how it compares with the results of a survey conducted by *Publisher's Weekly*. This study revealed that 49 percent of teens buy fiction,

28 percent buy nonfiction, and 20 percent buy textbooks. This is how the books on fiction break down:

ACTION, ADVENTURE OR WAR FICTION	ROMANCE	POPULAR FICTION	HUMOR	MYSTERY	SCIENCE FICTION	HISTORICAL	OCCULT, SUPER NATURA	CHILDREN'S	OTHER .
25%	23%	9%	8%	8%	7%	7%	5%	3%	3%

Saying No Makes Sense to Teens

TEENS UNDER 16 do not—repeat, do not—for the most part, engage in sexual activity or use drugs or alcohol, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

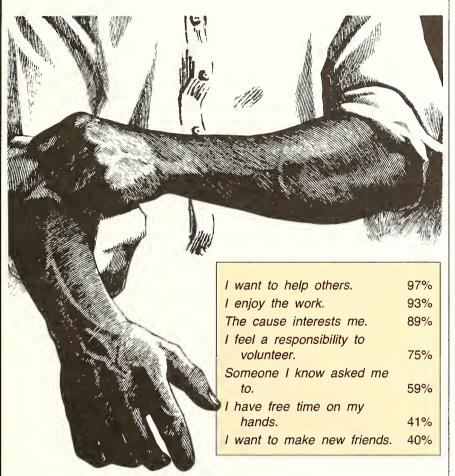
Current research by this prestigious organization reveals that nationwide only 35 percent of teens under 16 have experimented with premarital sex, marijuana or alcohol. These findings differ markedly from the results of research done a few years ago.



Volunteering

A NEW TREND has developed showing that more Americans are giving themselves to helping others.

The Gallup organization recently surveyed volunteers and found these reasons:



A RECENT ARTICLE in *Psychology Today* reported on a study made by the Center for the Study of Adolescence in Chicago. Profiles of nearly 6,000 adolescents show that the majority of today's teens have a good self-image, hold positive attitudes toward their families and have great respect for their parents. Yet one quarter of today's teens admit having feelings of help-lessness and hopelessness.

Here are some of the positive responses:

- A job well done gives me pleasure.
- Being with other people gives me a good feeling. 95%
- I like to help a friend whenever I can. 94%
- At times I think about what kinds of work I will do in the future.
 94%

On the negative side:

- I frequently feel sad. 25%
- I often feel I would rather die than go on living.
 19%
- I feel empty emotionally most of the time. 18%
- I feel so lonely.
 18%

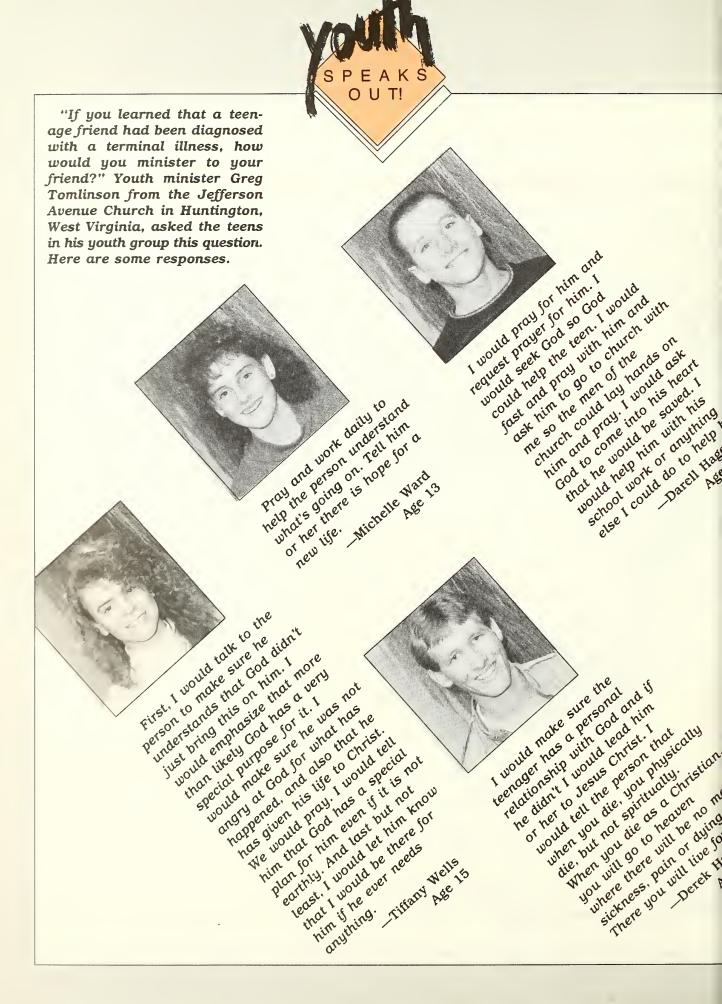
Which Church Activities Are Important?

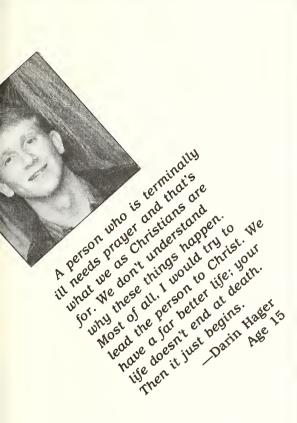
WHAT ARE AMERICA'S attitudes toward church and religious services? A survey of 80,000 families shows what people feel are most important. Findings reveal that 73 percent of the people questioned feel it is important to follow moral principles. More than 70 percent feel it is important to attend religious

services, and 57 percent feel it is important to be a member of a church. Other things people feel are important today are

- reading the Scriptures, 57 percent
- sharing your faith, 57 percent

- praying with your family, 54 percent
- giving time and money to the church, 53 percent
- participating in Bible study or discussion groups, 42 percent
- watching or listening to religious programs, 20 percent.









HAVE
YOU
TRIED
THE
NEW
EXCLUSIVE
YOUTH

Each month *Lighted Pathway* publishes a monthly topic or survey question. When you call **YOUTH** TALKLINE follow this procedure:

- 1. Dial the YOUTH TALKLINE number: 6154 SURVEY, or (615) 478-7839
- 2. At the sound of the tone, speak up dearly.
- 3. Give your full name, age, city and state.

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4. Respond to the topic of the month.

Lighted Pathway will endeavor to answer all your questions, either by correspondence or through an article in the magazine. If you wish a personal response, be sure to give your address on the YOUTH TALKLINE.

YOUTH TALKLINE SUBJECT:

What is your greatest worry as a Christian young person?



"Ask a kid where he's from, and if it takes him five minutes to tell you, or if he can't tell you where his home is at all, he's an MK," says Lloyd LePage.

An MK is a missionary kid, Lloyd, himself an MK at Lee College, points out.

Ask Lloyd where he's from, and he will tell you Malawi. That's in Southeast Africa and is bordered by Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique. He will also tell you that his father, David, is from Guernsey, a British island off the coast of France. His mother, Jean, is Scottish-English. The family, including his older sister, Sandra, moved to Malawi from Zimbabwe (then it was called Rhodesia) when Lloyd was three.

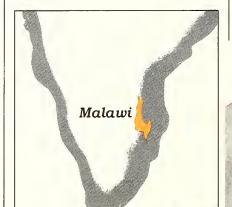
Lloyd grew up in the expatriate community in Blantyre, Malawi's capital city. "Because we lived in the city," Lloyd explains, "most of my friends were kids of expatriates, people on contracts from other countries, like England. There were a lot of Rhodesians and South Africans. Their parents were businessmen and would come on two- or three-year contracts. This caused problems because I'd have to change friends every two or three years.

"I was closest to missionary kids, though. They were from all different denominations. Although there are some Canadian and British missionaries there, most of the missionaries in Malawi are American. I had

a lot of American friends growing up.

"Because I never lived out of town, I never really had close native friends. On Sundays when I would visit the village churches with my father, I met many native friends, but we never had the opportunity to develop close friendships."

Lloyd's primary and secondary education was at non-Christian, expatriate schools based



Awakened by a hippopotamus charging through camp? Get real. Being a missionary kid can't be that exciting!

on the British system of education. "The schools we went to were very, very good. They offered us a lot of opportunities," he says.

The 6-foot-3-inch MK enjoys reading, acting and sports. At school he was on the swimwater ming, diving, polo, cricket, hockey, soccer, rugby, basketball and track-and-field teams. "I was always good enough to be on the team but not good enough to star in any sport," he says. "The triplejump was my favorite event."



ASSEMAN.

During his senior year, Lloyd attended the Rift Valley Academy, an American-based boarding school in Kenya and the world's largest MK school. "I wanted to go there because my close friends, the missionary kids, had left the school I was in to go to Rift Valley.

"It was an adventure. I enjoyed my one year there more than the rest of my schooling combined. We had special trips. We went camping on the Turkana Desert. We went snorkeling and windsurfing in the Indian

Ocean off Mombasa. We visited several famous game parks."

Lloyd says girlfriends were a special problem in Malawi. "You are limited in whom you can choose from because there are only a few 'missionary kid' girls. You have to wait until your friends break up or someone moves," he says. Like the new girl on the block, a new MK girl receives the attention of all the MK guys.

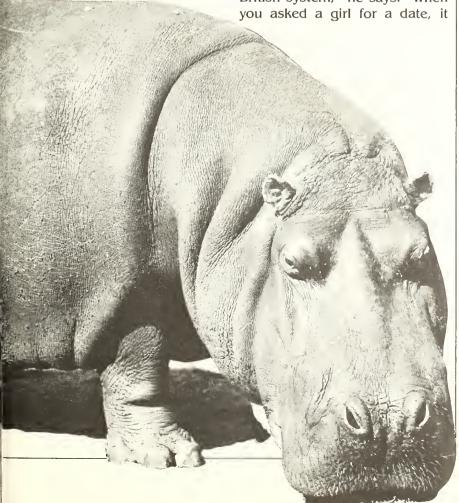
Dating American girls took some adjusting to when Lloyd first came to Lee College in 1985. "I was used to the old British system," he says. "When you asked a girl for a date, it

meant you wanted to go out with her all the time. There was no such thing as one date. You never had to ask twice. You always knew where you stood; there was none of this playing games. If she said no, it wasn't really a problem because you were already good friends."

ith his father, Lloyd regularly visited Church of God congregations outside the city. "After I was 8 or 9, I went to church with my dad almost every Sunday. In the villages I often couldn't understand a word. I can remember sitting through five-hour services. It was always an adventure."

During high school Lloyd enjoyed trips with one of his teachers, a wildlife biologist and game ranger. "I went out as often as I could-sometimes every two or three weeks. We would hike maybe 50 or 60 miles a weekend through wildlife country and in the game parks. We would track elephants. We'd see warthogs, different types of antelope, zebras-everything you could think of. One night we were awakened by a hippopotamus charging through our camp.

"We never took a tent—we just slept out on the ground. I've heard a lion roar, perhaps 500 yards away, while I was sleeping on the ground with no protection at all. Every time I go back to Malawi, I always go out with him into the bush."



Lloyd enjoys photography, conservation, wildlife paintings and books—"anything to do with wildlife. When I was growing up, I always wanted to be a wildlife biologist. I hope I can still do some of it—even if it's just a hobby."

He will graduate from Lee in May with majors in biology and Bible and a minor in intercultural studies. He plans to continue his education in either biology/health or in missions. "I don't want to Westernize people. I want to help them develop themselves, to find their own ways to have a better life in Christ."

hat do MKs do for entertainment? Lloyd and his MK friends got together every weekend they could. "There was an older guy who had a car. We would get a lot of MKs together and go to a mountain nearby and drive around and sort of get lost on purpose. I'd often stay at a friend's house, or some friends would stay at mine on the weekend."

house

ln the LePage Lloyd's Scottish-English mother filled the kitchen with the best food. "My mom's a boop cook," he says. Many visiting Americans agree. Lloyd's favorite foods are his mom's roast beef, roast carrots and roast potatoes.

"We wouldn't have tinned [canned] food because it was too expensive. Why buy canned food when you can get cheap, fresh stuff? We had beautiful vegetables. "There were always some things we'd crave that you couldn't get fresh. My dad would always ask people coming to see us from overseas to bring cornflakes. Even now he will ask for cornflakes. If you ever go to Malawi, you'll have to take him some."

At breakfast and after supper the LePage family always got together for devotions. After evening devotions "my dad would always listen to the news on the BBC." Malawi has no television.

Fellowship with other Christians was important to the Le-Pages. "In Malawi all the mis-

"In Malawi all the missionaries and churches, Pentecostal and otherwise, work together." sionaries and churches, Pentecostal and otherwise, work together. We had a missionary fellowship. Everybody is close friends. If we were not out in the villages, we would go on Sunday nights to an Assembly of God missionary's home for a fellowship meeting with missionaries from a lot of different churches," he remembers.

s there an advantage to being an MK? To Lloyd the cultural advantages are obvious. "Most of the kids I grew up with had been to six or seven countries already. I had been to six countries by the time I was 3 years old. Now I have been to 31.

"MKs seem to have a broader perspective of life and the world." He notes that many American students he knows watch only the local news and leave when the international news begins. "We MKs were brought up to be interested in the whole world, not just what was happening in our country."

During Christmas break Lloyd will add to his cross-cultural ministry experiences. "I feel called into missions, possibly to work with refugees," the engaging student says. "I'm going to Honduras with a friend during Christmas to see if refugee work is what God would have me do. I feel strongly that it is, but I'm not sure."

Ask Lloyd LePage in a few years where he's from, and he'll have a few more countries to tell you about.



A BROKEN LEG HAD PUT me on the sidelines of our church youth group activities lately. However, our youth pastor encouraged me to go on the fall retreat.

When my father pulled into the parking lot, I clumsily got out of the car, a cast on one leg and crutches in my hand. Immediately I saw that Bob was already the center of attention. Bible in one hand and tennis racket in the other, he was both a spiritual giant and best-allaround athlete in the youth group.

"Think I'll manage on the retreat OK?" I called out.

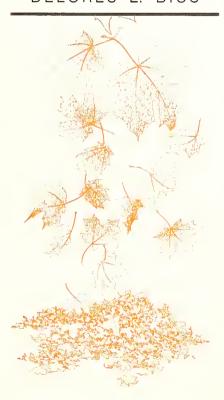
"You'll do great, Tom," Bob insisted. "None that cometh unto us will we cast out." A groan went up from the crowd.

"You're something else, Bob," I laughed. "You always have a Scripture verse for every occasion."

After Dave, our youth pastor, arrived, we loaded our luggage on the bus.

Once under way, we began

DELORES E. BIUS



alternately joking and singing. As the conversation turned to theology, Bob monopolized the discussion with his wide knowledge of Scripture and adeptness at presenting his arguments.

"I sure wish I could quote Scripture like Bob does," I confided to Debbie, who had taken a seat beside me.

"I know what you mean, Tom," Debbie replied, "I can usually recall the verse itself, but the address is harder.

After a while, everyone seemed to tire, and the noise in the bus subsided. Linda leaned over the seat in front of us and asked, "Debbie, could you loan me your comb? My hair is all tangled and my comb is in my luggage."

From across the aisle, Bob's deep voice boomed, "Yes, Debbie, 'give to . . . [her] who asks you, and from . . . [her] who wants to borrow from you do not turn away" (Matthew 5:42).

Just then the bus pulled into the retreat grounds. Dave cautioned us to keep the noise to a minimum because some of the other campers had retired early.

"Right, Dave, we promise we will not cry out, nor raise . . . [our] voice, Nor cause . . . [our]

voice to be heard in the street'" (Isaiah 42:2), Bob promised.

A groan went up from the others, and someone suggested that we put a gag on Bob.

The next morning, I woke up bright and early to Bob's announcement: "This is the day which the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Throwing a pillow at him, Ron complained, "It should be against the law for anyone to be so cheerful at the crack of dawn."

I nodded my head in agreement. "Bah—Scrooge—Charles Dickens, page 289."

"Let the saints be joyful in glory," Bob argued. "Let them sing aloud on their beds" (Psalm 149:5).

Then as the other guys hurled pillows at him, Bob headed for the shower.

During breakfast, I looked at the cereal and groaned, "This looks just like the oatmeal my mother used to make me eat. I can still remember how it stuck in my throat."

Setting a bowl of it on my tray, Bob advised, "Eat such things as are set before you" (Luke 10:8).

"Man, you are sick," I joked, putting the offending bowl of cereal back on Bob's tray.

Following breakfast, teams were set up for KP duty.

After KP was over, I slowly hobbled to the hillside where the morning Bible study was held. Dave came along and joined me.

"Just as I predicted," he commented, "you are managing quite well despite your crutches. By the way, I'm glad for the chance to talk to you alone. I wanted to thank you again for the contribution you made to the Awana fund. Thanks to your THE NEXT
MORNING, I
WOKE UP BRIGHT
AND EARLY
TO BOB'S
ANNOUNCEMENT:

generosity, Ronnie Lucas will be able to go to camp."

"That's great," I sighed. "Ronnie is really growing in the Lord and it will mean a lot to him. The poor little guy has a miserable home life. I prayed that there would be enough money for him to go."

"What's more important, Tom, is the fact that you put action with prayers. I know you don't make a lot on your part-time job, especially while you're sidelined with that leg. Your gift was a real sacrifice."

"Well, I guess sometimes the Lord helps us to answer our own prayers," I mused.

At the end of the retreat, during the ride home, everyone was tired out and dozing. Even Bob seemed subdued, as if he had run out of his Scripture verses.

In the rear of the bus Debbie and I talked for some time. "What was the high point of the weekend for you?" she asked. "It must have been boring for you with your leg in a cast. You couldn't go swimming or play volleyball."

"That's just it though, Debbie. I think the Lord laid me aside temporarily so I could get closer to Him. If I hadn't had the cast, I would have been worn out physically by now. As it is, I had a lot of time to be nourished spiritually. In addition to our group Bible studies and devotionals, I had a chance to get

off by myself and really get to know the Lord better."

"I think I know what you mean," Debbie confided. "You seem a lot closer to the Lord."

"Thanks, Debbie, but I actually feel really ignorant next to fellows like Bob. He gives such dynamic testimonies, and he certainly knows the Bible. Why, he's like a walking concordance!"

"Maybe, but in the long run it's what your life says that counts, not what your lips say. In one of the verses that I learned the 'address' of, Jesus says 'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven'" (Matthew 5:16). Notice it says see, not hear.

"Well, Debbie, looks like you just preached me a sermon too, by quoting the Bible," I told her.

"Just call me Bob's counterpart," she laughed.

"Did someone take my name in vain?" Bob asked, raising up his head and looking around.

"Oh no, who started up the electronic preacher again?" A groan came from the rest of the bus.

"Is he at it again?" Dave moaned. "I'm going to resign as youth pastor and let Bob replace me!"

As the bus rolled into the parking lot, several of the guys were threatening to hit Bob with his own tennis racket while the girls were trying to gag him with Linda's scarf.

As for me, I no longer felt jealous of Bob's outgoing personality. I was glad I had been able to give to the Lord's work. I realized that God creates each of us to be unique individuals. Just as our youth pastor had predicted, I was glad I had gone on the retreat!



CHRISTIAN·LIFESTYLE

CHANGE YOUR SELF-ESTEEM AND YOUR IMAGE

Ovid, a Roman poet, told the story in *Metamorphoses*.

The handsome youth was very proud of his good looks. He was so handsome that everyone he met fell head over heels in love with him. Yet, he loved no one in return.

The youth's name was Narcissus.

Many girls tried to woo Narcissus, but his devotion to himself was too great. Echo, an exquisitely beautiful maiden, pursued him more than the others. She was so smitten with her love for him that in his presence she could think of nothing to say. She could only repeat Narcissus' own words.

Narcissus spurned even Echo's love. She was so hurt by his coldness that she faded away completely, except for a faint voice that still repeats only what people say.

The day Narcissus saw his own reflection in a pool of clear water was the day he fell in love with himself. The appeal of his own image was so strong that he found he could not leave the pool. He spent the rest of his life there, gazing at himself and sighing in admiration. Finally, he died and was changed into a flower—the one which has since been called by his name, Narcissus.

In these Bible studies we have been talking about image: the picture we have of ourselves and the image we present to others. Self-image, the picture we have of ourselves, reflects the kind of confidence we have in God and in His works. The impression we consciously leave on others reflects our concern for the needs of people and for the causes that God is concerned with.

What we think of ourselves influences every aspect of our

lives—our subconscious behavior, our attitudes, our conduct.

How others see us, on the other hand, gives them a basis for forming opinions about us and affects, ultimately, the way they react toward us.

It is important, then, to live so that even unbelievers can realize we have "been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). We must reflect a Christlike image to others.

Self-esteem and narcissism are not synonymous. Self-image turned wrongly, however, can turn into narcissism, a selfish self-love. We can be so captured with a longing for ourselves that we become numb to loving others. It is important to find the proper balance between a healthy self-esteem and a deadly narcissism.

It is also important to look honestly at how we appear to others. A proper self-esteem includes seeing ourselves as other kids—and adults—see us.

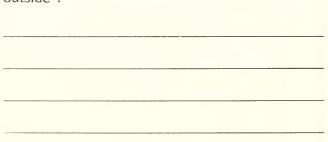
Checking Yo

LOOK IN THE WORD

- 1. Do you consider it important to have a good image? Why?
- 2. Do you think it is important to God for you to have a good image? Why?
- 3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12. List four things these scriptures tell us to do that will build us up in the eyes of others:

a.	
b.	
c.	

4. Read *Colossians 4:5, 6.* What are some ways you can "walk in wisdom toward those who are outside"?



5. Memorize *Proverbs 22:1*, 'A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches."



Bible Study

IMAGE



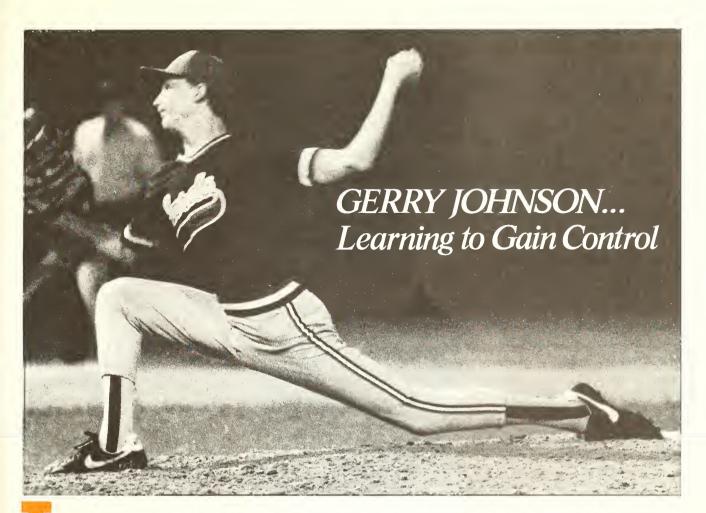
CHECKING YOUR IMAGE

		YES	NO	SOMETIMES
1.	Do you consider yourself balanced in your outlook on life?			
2.	Do others see you as a cheery person or as a grouch?			
3.	Are you considered a friendly person or slightly stuck-up?			
4.	Do others ever feel comfortable sharing personal problems with you?			
5.	In your efforts to be friendly, do you ever find yourself telling things you shouldn't tell?			
6.	Do you always wait to see how others feel before expressing an opinion about a subject, or can you stand firmly for what you believe?			
7.	Do most of the kids you hang out with at school have a good name or a questionable reputation?			



CHANGING YOUR IMAGE

How can you change your image? Older people call our generation the television generation. The tube, an integral part of our daily lives, pervades all that we do. We know what to do about a visual, however. What do we do when we get bored? We switch channels. We change the images. We interrupt the "linear flow of electronic impulses." We insert a VHS in the VCR and get a different program. Changing an image on the screen is easy. But changing our self-image and changing the image others have of us takes more time. And deffort! But guess what! We can change our image. Romans 12 tells us how to do it. First, we present ourselves as a "living sacrifice" to God and then are transformed by renewing our minds. Meditate on this for a few minutes.	3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.
Read verses 9-21. List at least 10 things in this passage that we can do to improve our image:	9. Put down three of these things you plan to begin doing immediately in order to improve your opinion of yourself as well as others' opinion of you. 1. 2. 3.



HIS IS A STORY about God's healing power. It's a story about Gerry Johnson, 16, and how he is gaining control of his life.

Gerry was born in Baton Rouge, La., the son of the Rev. Gerald and Norma Johnson. He was born with Tourette Syndrome, a chemical imbalance that causes involuntary physical movements. Gerry's hip sockets did not interlock properly, causing one leg to be shorter than the other. He had difficulty standing and learning to walk. Twistercable leg braces were recommended for Gerry's safety and stability.

The Lord assured his parents He was going to heal Gerry. God confirmed His Word by impressing Norma with these powerful words: "Take those braces off your mind." They felt the peace of God as they obeyed.

God chose to do His restorative work on Gerry over a period of time. During this period the family's faith was often tested as they awaited the loving promise of the risen Christ.

"I became a loner because of my difficulties," Gerry says. "I was really shy. I had a hard time making friends. That may be the reason I got so attached to baseball. It helped bring me out of my shell."

Gerry's father, a pastor, was transferred and the family moved to Phoenix, Ariz. Norma taped a square on the wall of the patio and Gerry, a natural lefthander, started throwing sockballs at this target by the hour.

Gerry's first experience in competition as a pitcher came at age 10 and was a negative one. He walked the bases full and gave up a grand-slam homerun.

He left the mound saying, "I can't do this."

He did not attempt to play baseball as an 11-year-old. That year the ministry took the Johnsons to Florida.

Gerry found that God often brings people into our lives to help fulfill His purposes. He provided a series of loving people . . . coaches, parents and teammates who were a source of encouragement to Gerry.

At 12, Gerry decided to try baseball again. Bill Schopp, a former St. Louis Cardinal pitcher who is a Christian, worked with him and some other kids. He encouraged them to use what they had. He told them to give their best and believe that maximum effort would bring honor to the Lord and fulfillment to their lives.

Gerry attended several ses-

sions at the Clearwater School of Baseball. There, a Christian coach, Ed Durkin, and his staff emphasized the be-the-best-you-can-be approach. Their positive teaching reinforced the idea that "Can't is dead; keep it buried!"

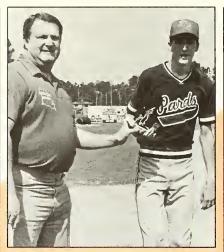
"Baseball has been much more than a game to our son," Pastor Johnson says. "It has provided him with a series of lessons about life with its ups and downs and crisis situations the need for coping power and the desire to bounce back from defeat. Gerry is a winner to us, even if he never plays another inning or retires another batter. The Lord has enabled him to overcome so many obstacles."

Gerry has drawn strength from the story of the boy whose hand was severed from his wrist. When asked about his condition the boy replied, "I don't have a handicap; I just don't have a right hand." One of the leading scorers on his high school football team, he often said, "It's not what you have lost but what you do with what you have left that counts!"

Over the years Gerry's physical difficulties began to disappear. He grew into a 6-foot-2-inch, 165-pound athlete. He maintains a 3.0 grade point average at school. Gerry has daily devotions and strives to maintain a Christian witness on the high school campus.

"I have seen numerous contests where Gerry would get hit hard and seem ready to give up the sport," his father says. "Somehow the Lord always allowed him to have enough success to keep on trying."

Four times in Florida Gerry was chosen to play on postseason teams. As a 15-year-old he pitched a regular season nohitter and once struck out 20 batters in a nine-inning game. In 1987 he pitched two com-



Coach and Gerry Johnson



plete-game wins to lead West Pasco to the District 12 championship.

Back in Louisiana now, Gerry played last summer with the Denham Springs "Prep 16" baseball team. They competed in the Babe Ruth state play-offs in July. Prior to the state tournament he discussed an illustration he remembered his dad using in a sermon. It was about trying until you succeed and coming back from defeat.

It happened in Asia in the 14th Century. Emperor Tamerlane's army had been routed, dispersed by a powerful enemy. Tamerlane himself lay hidden in a deserted manger while en-

emy troops scoured the countryside. As he lay there, desperate and dejected, Tamerlane watched a tiny ant trying to carry a grain of corn over a wall. Sixty-nine times it fell back. On the 70th try the ant pushed the grain of corn over the top.

Tamerlane leaped to his feet with a shout. He, too, would triumph in the end! And he did . . . putting the enemy to flight.

Gerry bounced back from an opening, no-decision game to shut out East Feliciana 7-0 in the championship final. It was his third tournament victory in a week. His teammates played errorless ball in the final two games.

During the championship series, Gerry pitched 23 innings, allowing only four earned runs, and recorded 25 strikeouts. He was awarded the Most Valuable Player trophy.

Gerry will tell you he feels he was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time. He realizes his limitations and knows that baseball is not his future. Nevertheless, he says, "It is amazing how many good things the Lord has allowed to happen for me to enjoy a brief moment in the spotlight."

Gerry gives honor and thanks to God. He says that God takes our marginal talents and uses them to focus on our need for His strength.

"I can't do this," Gerry Johnson once said. Now he is learning to gain control, to come back and do well in competition with his peers. He is learning that through Christ you can break through to levels of personal achievement you never thought possible.

"And when you do," Gerry says, "don't forget to thank God and give Him the glory."

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Open it... and understand.

1988 SEP By Nancy O'Bannon TO EUROPE

rmgard Knolle was sharing her testimony.

The STEP team was having its final devotion together before they would board a transatlantic jet for the trip back to the United States. My husband, Dr. Robert O'Bannon, and I

were leading a team of young adults during a fantastic trip across Europe.

Devotions that night were conducted in the home of Phil and Mary Morris, missionary-teachers in Rudersburg, West Germany. We hung on to Irmgard's every word.

Together we hurt for her as she related how her family demanded that she give up her faith when she was converted. She refused and was disowned by her father. We thrilled as she recalled the circumstances that led her to the European Bible Seminary (EBS), then to Lee College in the United States, and on to Wheaton College and graduate school.

During every step, she testified, she felt a missions call but wondered how and when it would be fulfilled. She was sure, however, that God had used each place and circumstance to prepare her for the ministry to which He had called her.

Irmgard told of her experiences in language study in France. Then she began teaching Christian education at EBS. We rejoiced as she told us that, at last, she would soon leave to be a missionary in the Ivory Coast, a French-speaking country of West Africa.

Before we could recover emotionally, missionary Phil Morris shared the story of a poor woman who worked in a sewing factory in the United States. Because she was obedient to the Lord, Phil's entire family was lead to believe the Pentecostal message. That family produced more than 20 ministers, missionaries and Bible school teachersall the fruit of one person's witness.

Graphically, Phil drove the lesson home: We should not discount what the Lord asks us to do just because it seems insignificant!



STEP is many things. Memories. Laughter. Sacrifice. Witness. Inconvenience. Worship. Work. Unutterable joy.

Summer Training and Evangels artners in action



dy and Crystal Mayberry



Lori Harris







These were just two of the many rich experiences of last summer's STEP trip to Europe. Every summer, teams of Church of God youth go to various destinations overseas and in the United States for a short-term missions experience. They get to see firsthand the work of God in a missions setting. They meet missionaries and other Christian leaders who are on the cutting edge of what God is doing in our world.

Our first three days in Europe were spent at the German Youth Conference in Heidelberg. Our interest was heightened by a visit to the famed Heidelberg Castle and a sightseeing cruise down the Neckar River with a boatload of German youth. The weather cooperated perfectly—blue skies, warm weather and no rain. The scenery was breathtaking: ancient castles, sleepy villages and lush, green fields.

During our stay at the European Bible Seminary, we participated in the closing service of the school year. What a blessing to worship with people from Germany, Africa, Israel, Holland and Norway!

On one occasion we were scheduled to go to Sicily. Before leaving I selected Psalm 91 as the scripture for our devotion. I soon discovered the passage was very familiar to some of

our team members. Both Corinne Krupa from Connecticut and Lori Harris from Tennessee said their families had read the same psalm to them before they started on the overseas journey!

Getting to Sicily proved to be quite an experience. We discovered that merely having tickets for transportation was not enough; we also had to have reservations. We spent five hours in the Rome train station trying in vain to get reservations. We sat on the floor most of the time because there were no seats in that part of the train station.

Finally, we went down to Naples to try our luck there. Missionaries Vittorio Laurentano and David and Tami Gibson rescued us. They cared for us overnight and helped us secure passage to Palermo, Sicily.

In Sicily Overseer John Alessi was gracious. Missionary Filippo Lombardo and Joanna, his wife, went beyond the call of duty as hosts. We were fed all kinds of pasta and hot Sicilian pizza baked in a brick oven. A STEPer from England, Donald LeRoy, joined us.

We were involved in a work project in Sicily. We worked in a vineyard and campsite the church has.

Who could forget the sights of Rome: St. Peter's Cathedral, the Sistine chapel, the colosseum, Michelangelo's *Moses*, Circus Maximus, the old open forum, and so on.

And what can I say about the train ride through the Swiss Alps? Breathtaking mountains, Alpine lakes, meadows, flowers, Swiss villages. Some say that after God created the world, He kissed Switzerland. Undoubtedly!



But the most memorable moments were those spent with Christians overseas and those spent witnessing about Christ.

So many memories. Bob preaching the Word. Joanna and her daughter, Danielle, joining an impromptu worship service in Sicily and adding so much to it, even though we could not understand each other's language. Lori singing, with tears streaming down her face, "God Still Loves the World."

STEP is many things. Memories. Laughter. Sacrifice. Witness. Inconvenience. Worship. Work. Unutterable joy.

But most of all, STEP is Church of God youth sharing Jesus with the world.

For information on next summer's STEP teams, contact

> STEP Gary Sears P.O. Box 2430 Cleveland, TN 37311



I'd fallen
into the pit
of negativity,
and it
was a pit
I'd dug
myself.

OF A
CHRONIC
COMPLAINER

TERESA CLEARY

I ADMIT IT.

Maybe I've always been a person who sees the milk glass as half empty instead of half full, but that's something I'm trying to change. I don't mean to complain, really I don't, but it seems like I've had more than my share of bad days lately. Like this morning. . . .

I forgot to set my alarm last night, so I overslept and didn't have time for a shower. Then my toast burned because I was in the laundry room looking for the maroon sweater I wanted to wear. And just when I decided to eat a bowl of cereal instead of toast, my bus came—10 minutes early.

It seemed like my life went like that for months—since the month of July, to be more exact. That's when Dad told the family we were moving.

Now I don't mean to complain, but we'd lived on Haskell Drive for as long as I could remember, and I liked things the way they were. I'd finally gotten my own room, I had tons of friends, and I planned to be really involved in school this year. Life was going great—until Dad's announcement. Now I'd have to start all over.

Since I'd made a resolution to be more optimistic, I tried not to mention too many times that moving meant my chances for happiness were ruined. I also tried not to remind my mom too much that being shy made it harder for me to meet new people and that I'd probably never have another best friend. I tried not to complain so much, but I guess I did anyway.

Our new house was OK, and I did get my own room. There were even a lot of kids my age in the neighborhood. Jenny, the girl next door, seemed nice, but she already had a best friend. While my brothers made friends right away, I hung back, afraid people wouldn't like me.

When school started a few weeks after we settled in, l

"Don't you ever have anything good to say?"
Mr. Cameron asked.
"All I ever hear from you are complaints."

found my resolution to be optimistic even harder to keep. Walking into homeroom with its sea of new faces reminded me that at my old school, homeroom would have been filled with people I'd known since kindergarten.

My classes seemed OK at first, until I realized that my literature teacher was serious about making us read a new book each month and that my algebra teacher was going to check our homework every day. It seemed like all I ever did was homework.

I probably would have gone on complaining about school, our new neighborhood and anything else I could think of if it hadn't been for my American history teacher. After he announced that our next test was only three days away, I gave my usual sigh of discouragement and told him that three days wasn't enough time to study all the material he'd given us.

"Teresa, don't you ever have anything good to say?" Mr. Cameron asked. "All I ever hear from you are complaints."

His words caught me by surprise.

As much as I hated to admit it, I realized my efforts to overcome my pessimistic nature were failing. I'd fallen into the trap of negativity, and it was a pit I'd dug myself—shovelful by shovelful.

My negativism seemed to creep up on me without warning. An innocent complaint one day became two complaints the next day, three the next, and

HINTS FOR HANDLING NEGATIVISM

Three major symptoms of negativism are boredom—feeling your life is meaningless and empty, lack of follow through—giving up easily on plans and goals and never finishing what you've started, and apathy—an l-couldn't-care-less-

about-anything" attitude.

If these symptoms sound familiar, you're probably suffering from negativism. So what can you do? Here are some suggestions:

• Go to God. Overcoming your problem may take more than your own strength. Before you've reached the depths of negativism, do as King David often did in the Psalms and cry out to God for help. Though David failed the Lord in many ways, God never abandoned him. Spend time daily in prayer, confessing your negative thoughts and attitudes and asking for God's forgiveness. Claim 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our

so on. Soon, I realized, I wouldn't have anything good to say at all. I knew I'd better take action fast.

STEP ONE

My first step was to enlist the aid of my family. I told them that anytime they heard me complaining, I had to pay a nickel to the "complaint cup" I put on the kitchen counter. Hitting me in the wallet has always been an effective way to make me change a bad habit.

Soon my younger brothers were skulking around the house, waiting for an opportunity to tell me I was complaining again. They watched with delight as the money in the complaint cup rose, since we'd decided the money would be used to take the family out for pizza.

STEP TWO

The next part of my plan involved school. At my old school

"I'd used being the new kid on the block as an excuse to hide in my shell for long enough. . . ."

I knew I'd have been involved in a lot of extracurricular activities. I'd used being the new kid on the block as an excuse to hide in my shell for long enough. So I started going out of my way to talk to people in class. I joined the German club and even volunteered to work backstage on the school play. When I opened up to other people, I realized that they weren't bad at all. I just needed to give them a chance.

STEP THREE

My last course of action, the most important one, involved going to the Lord with my problem. I knew I should have done that from the very beginning, but when you're caught in the depths of negativity, that's easier said than done. I prayed daily for a new, more positive attitude and looked up scriptures to rely on when I began to feel overwhelmed. One of my favorites was part of a song I'd always sung with my old youth group, "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

I'm taking things one step at a time, but I've noticed that by relying on God's help, being more involved in school and having a houseful of complaint monitors around, it's easier to watch my attitude.

The complaint cup still gets a few more nickels than I'd like, but maybe soon we can empty it and spend the evening doing something I never complain about—eating pizza. □

sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Pray for a new outlook on life and for help in keeping a rein on your tongue and thoughts. Look up scriptures that promise God's faithfulness to you (Hebrews 13:5). Memorize Philippians 4:8.

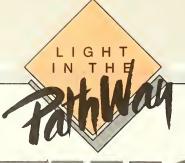
• Enlist the help of others. Develop a support system of family and friends who will lovingly help you with your problem.

I recruited my family to point out my negative comments and attitudes. I made them enforce a punishment system (a complaint cup) that penalized me for complaining by making me pay a nickel for every negative thing I said.

• **Get involved.** One of the symptoms of negativism is boredom, and one of the fastest ways of overcoming boredom is to do something. Decide to join one of your school's clubs or try out for the next class play. Take a lead in youth group. When you're at home, spend time with your family instead of shutting yourself off in your room. Help a younger brother or sister with homework or, better yet, play a game (their choice) with them. Keep yourself busy.

When you start to feel yourself falling into the pit of negativism, learn to rely on the help of God and others as well as trying to keep yourself busy.

Battling negativism is a struggle we all can win.



IS THIS A

IS IT ALL RIGHT TO DO something if it isn't against the law or the teachings of your church?

This involves the basic question of morality. Posed in this manner, however, it reminds us of the influence contemporary culture has on believers.

In the world there seems to be no right and wrong anymore. Crime, drugs, pornography, terrorism, brutality and all kinds of antisocial behavior bring havoc to individuals and society. Yet it is often excused or watered down by obscuring the language. *Time* magazine's Meg Greenfield called this trend "a loss of the feeling of right and wrong" and "a denial of conscience."

For example. A public figure commits a crime, willfully thumbing his nose at accepted behavior, and gets caught. We don't call it wrong; we call it stupid. To be sinful, this trend implies, is naughty but desirable. To get caught is stupid. "I don't understand it," we cry. "How can anyone be that dumb?" Do anything you can get away with—just don't come off looking stupid. The mistake of looking dumb is the incriminating sin.

Society fosters the erroneous notion that people are not responsible for their wrongdoing if they have some kind of physi-

MARCUS V. HAND

cal, mental or psychological ailment. We don't call them wrongdoers; we call them sick. A variety of terms are used: crimes of passion, psychological disorders, physical or mental lapses—anything to justify aberrant behavior. If you're about to get caught, check into a hospital for treatment.

Or we chalk it up to the circumstances. We don't call it wrong it's only what is to be expected in that situation. Don't blame the criminal for his crime or the sinner for his sin.

If it's legally permissible, another version of this trend goes, it must be morally acceptable. We don't call it wrong, we call it 'unlawful" or 'unconstitutional." If the action is not specifically prohibited, many think it must be all right.

Unfortunately, this feeling spills over into the church. If something is not spelled out in black and white in sacred Scripture, some tend to think that whether it is right or wrong is a matter of opinion.

What does God have to say about all this? "Woe to those who drag their sins behind them like a bullock on a rope. . . . They say that what is right is wrong, and what is wrong is right; that black is white and white is black; bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter" (Isaiah 5:18).

What is right? "Every law of God is right" (Psalm 119:128). "The paths of the Lord are true and right, and good men walk along them" (Hosea 14:9).

What is wrong? "The Lord despises every kind of cheating. The character of even a child can be known by the way he acts—whether what he does is pure and right" (Proverbs 20:10, 11).

We need to remind ourselves that the way to remove sin is not to mislabel it, deny it or excuse it but to call it by its right name, confess it to God and ask for His forgiveness.

^{*} All scriptures in this article are from *The Living Bible*.

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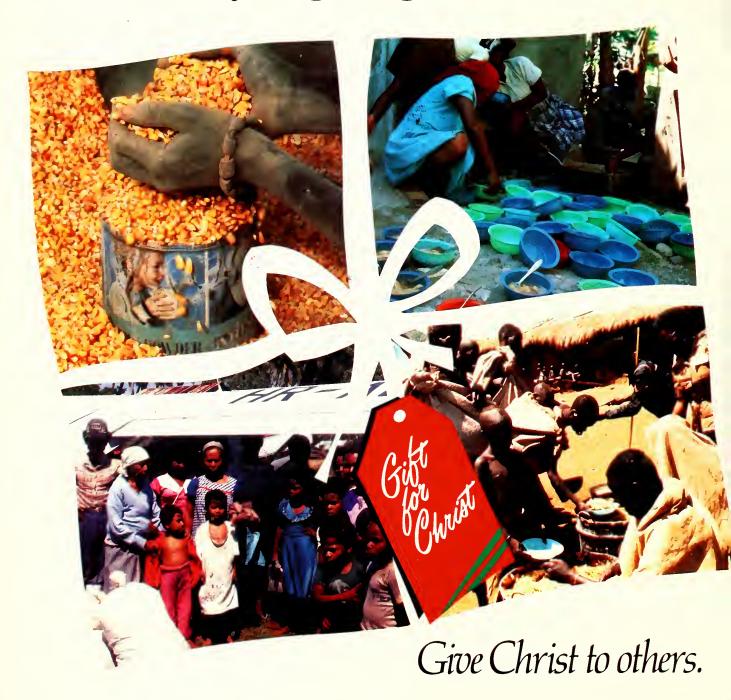
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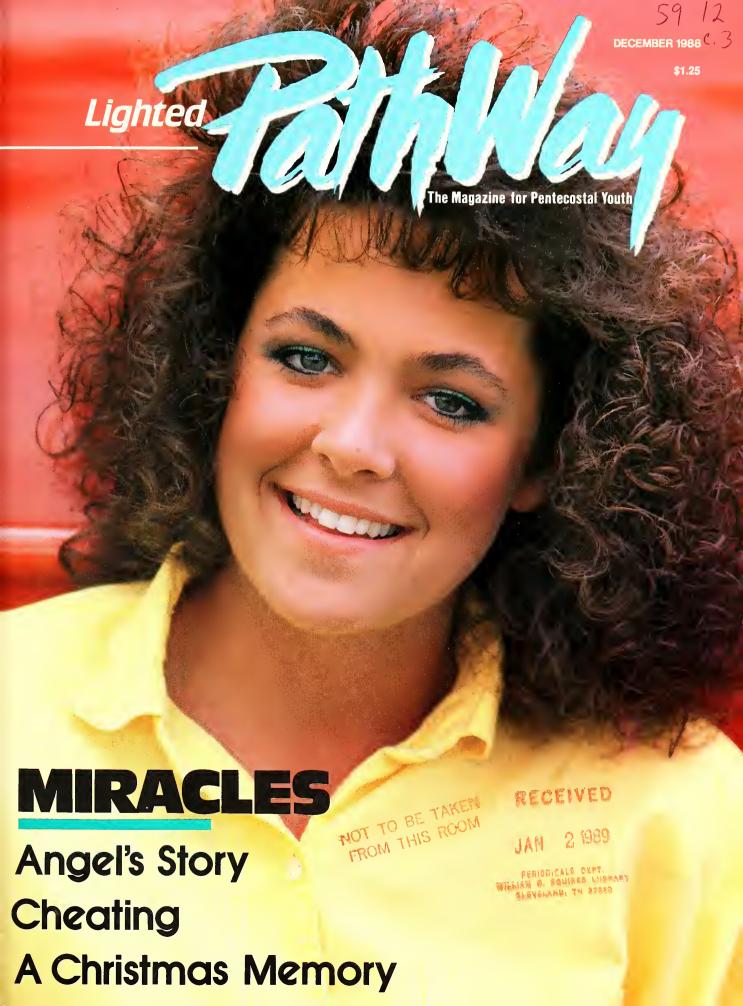


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DECEMBER 1988

The Christmas season surfaces, all too often, conflicting emotions which merge inside us and confuse. Joy intermingles with sadness, uncertainty challenges anticipation, and a feeling of depression shatters an expected sense of elation. Lighted Pathway believes that Jesus can make it different. We send you our choicest holiday greeting and a wish for peace.

—the Staff



Angel's Story P. 8



The Charmer P. 10

VOLUME 59, NO. 12

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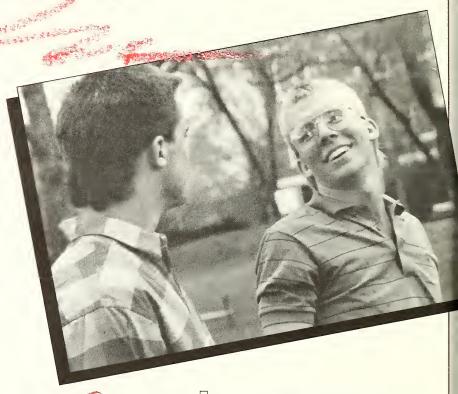


Mend a Friendship

WHEN YOU have a serious spat with a friend:

- 1. Talk out your differences as soon as you can.
- 2. Do it honestly and lovingly.
- 3. Select a quiet, private spot for your talk.
- 4. Avoid making accusations.
- 5. Listen to your friend's side of the story first.
- 6. Stick to the facts.
- 7. Avoid gossip and rumors.
- 8. Be as tactful as possible.
- 9. Keep an open mind.
- 10. Balance a negative statement with a positive one.
- 11. Let your friend know you want to work through this problem.

12. Forgive your friend, even if he or she doesn't ask for it. \square



How Important Are Good Grades?

IN A RECENT survey of teens who read *Lighted Pathway* magazine, we asked some questions about grades. Here is what you said:

How important is it to you to get good grades?

64%—"It's extremely important."

36%—"It's important, but I don't get upset when I don't make an A."

How important is it to your parents for you to make good grades?

73%—"It's extremely important."
23%—"It's important, but they don't get upset when I don't make an A." □



American Chicle

THE LATEST American Chicle Youth Poll has some revealing insights on youth and their parents. According to their figures,

- 24% say their parents worry too much about their grades.
- 23% say their parents worry too much about the amount of television they watch.
- 16% say their parents worry too much about the kinds of programs they watch.
- 15% say their parents worry too much about the kinds of friends they have.
- 11% say their parents worry too much about the kinds of food they eat.

On the other hand,

- 27% say their parents aren't concerned about their cultural activities.
- 23% say their parents aren't concerned about the amount of exercise they get.
- 20% say their parents aren't concerned about their extracurricular activities.
- 15% say their parents aren't concerned about their hobbies.
- 15% say their parents aren't concerned about whether they participate in sports.



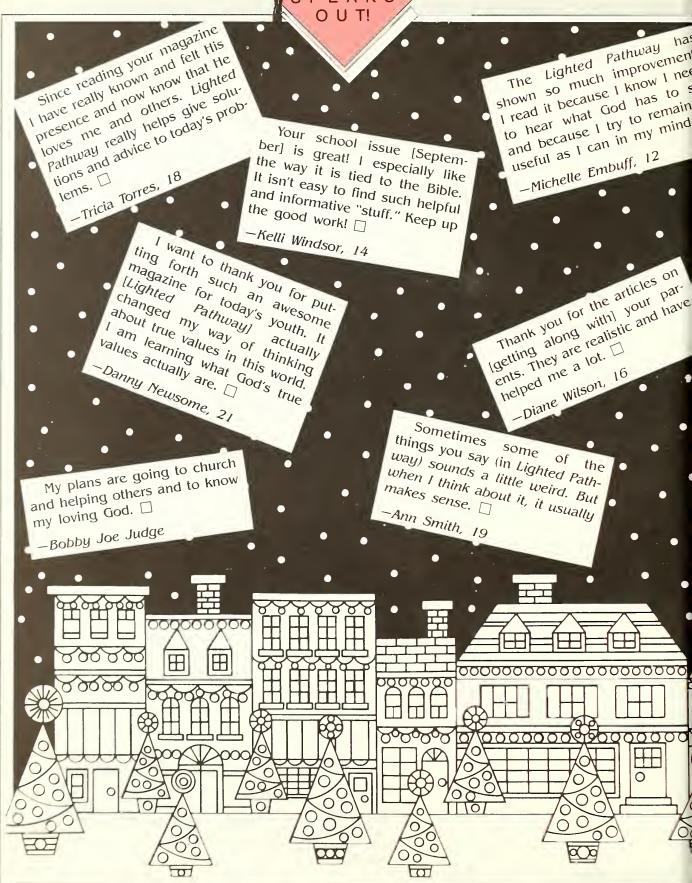
Where Can I Get a Job?

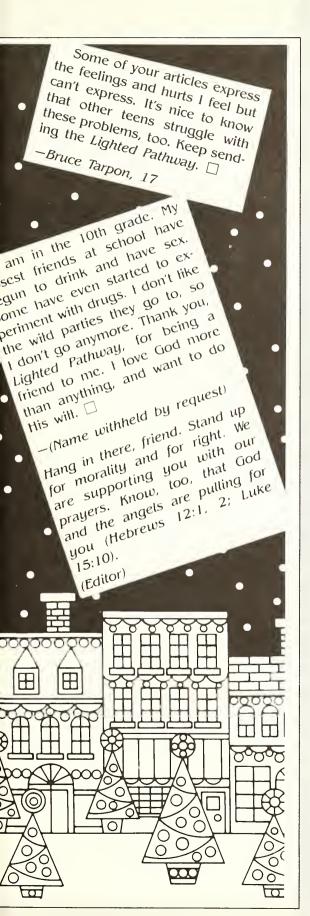
THE FIVE biggest employers and number of people who work for them nationwide are

- General Motors—813,400 employees
- IBM-389,348 employees
- Ford Motor Company—350,320 employees
- AT&T—303,000 employees
- General Electric —302,000 employees.











HAVE
YOU
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THE
NEW
EXCLUSIVE
YOUTH
TALKLINE

Each month Lighted Pathway publishes a monthly topic or survey question. When you call YOUTH TALKLINE follow this procedure:

- 1. Dial the YOUTH TALKLINE number: 6154 SURVEY, or (615) 478-7839.
- At the sound of the tone, speak up a clearly.
- 3. Give your full name, age, city and state.
- 4. Respond to the topic of the month.

Lighted Pathway will endeavor to answer all your questions, either by correspondence or through an article in the magazine. If you wish a personal response, be sure to give your address on the YOUTH

TALKLINE.

YOUTH TALKLINE SUBJECT:

If you receive only one gift for Christmas, what would you like? Why?

ANTAGOR

ATAI

The same

Angel's story

by Lena White, age 15



Lena, left and Angel live in Huntington, WV

NGEL IS IN the 11th grade.
She is my sister.
Angel has lupus.

Statistics show that 90 percent of lupus patients live only five years after diagnosis. Angel's five years have passed. We are glad we still have her with us.

Angel was the 6th grade beauty queen. She was tall, slender, had icy blue eyes and golden blonde hair. She was unusually active and always ready to do something extraordinary and exotic. Angel was one of a kind. There was no one like her. She always made you laugh, even when something wasn't funny.

I guess that was Angel's way of hiding the pain she was feeling inside. She never let anyone know how she felt until one day, after playing outside in the sunshine, her face broke out with a rash that made her look like a monster.

Her face would never recover the physical beauty she once had.

Though affected with a terminal disease, Angel knows she is surrounded by love. . . .

Days later Angel started feeling nauseous. She often stayed home and slept. She wasn't active anymore. We couldn't know the real pain Angel was feeling.

Mom took Angel to a doctor, and he said she was suffering from lupus. This meant she was allergic to the sun. It caused her a great deal of mental and psychological pain to know she would never be able to enjoy the sunshine again.

Angel sat in the house day after day, crying for some freedom from the darkness she would live in for the rest of her life.

Angel's appointments with the doctor grew more frequent. She required test after test. Finally, they came up with the tragic news that Angel had both classes of lupus: discoid and systemic. Discoid lupus ruptures the skin, while systemic lupus involves the skin plus many other parts of the body. It can damage the vital organs, such as the kidneys, the brain, the heart and the lungs.

Systemic lupus is terminal.

The doctor gave us pamphlets telling us how the disease would affect our lives and how it would affect Angel's movements. She could no longer jump and play as she had just two weeks before. She could no longer swim in the pool our parents had just installed.

Angel's kidneys began to fail. Her bones started showing signs of needing joint replacements. Angel was put on so many pills I couldn't begin to count them. In addition to the major medication, she has to take baby aspirin to prevent a small heart attack.

Bad news seemed to come in waves. Depression settled in. Angel seemed to live in the dumps. We are told that many lupus patients can't handle the pressure that comes with having a terminal illness.

We just got back from our last trip to the doctor. He is not optimistic. Because her bones are deteriorating, she has developed Cushing's syndrome. This means she has soft bones that will break easily. Even her

spine is in danger of breaking. Angel now has no other choice except to be confined to a wheel-chair.

But Angel is still going strong. Ask her what keeps her going, and she always answers, "The Lord." She believes that God will get glory out of what has happened to her.

She says her destiny is in God's hands.

Angel will always believe in God, and because of her, so will I. God has shown us in the past few years that whatever happens to you, you always have a friend in Jesus—even when you go through unbelievable pain and torture.

Angel's five years have passed. She is living a life that only a lupus patient could experience. But her example has helped me appreciate life and good health.

We all love Angel. We enjoy each day we are allowed to have her with us.

She reminds us not to take life for granted, to enjoy our loved ones and to love God always. \square

WHAT IS LUPUS

Lupus is a disorder of the body's immune system. For some unknown reason, antibodies which normally protect the body from bacteria, viruses and common infection suddenly attacks and "protects" the body from itself—its own red and white blood cells.

There are two forms of lupus: discoid and systemic. Discoid lupus is the milder form and usually affects the skin. It is not fatal. Systemic lupus is more perilous and may attack any organ of the body.

Lupus can strike anyone at any age, but curiously enough, 85 percent of the cases occur in females between the ages of 10 and 40.

For more information about lupus, consult your doctor or contact the Lupus Foundation of America, 11921-A Olive Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. 63141. \square

HOSPITALS ARE FOR FRIENDS

THINK OF HOSPITALS, and your mind creates mental pictures of pain and sickness and of being confined to the bed.

Consider this: Hospitals are for friends. You may have to go to a hospital someday as a patient. For sure, you will need to visit a friend who is a patient in the hospital.

Hours and days in the hospital can be lonely without familiar faces. Someone will be depending on you. When you go as a visitor, here are some things to remember:

If you take a gift, keep it small and simple. Flowers are always a delight. You might want to take a favorite magazine or book for reading.

Always obey the hospital policy for visitors.

Go in small groups or alone. Hospitals usually allow only two visitors at a time. Therefore, a large group of visitors are not permitted to visit at the same time.

Be creative. Take your friend in the hospital a card with the signature of everyone in the youth group. Or take a tape of greetings, along with a tape player. Remember to play it softly to keep from disturbing other patients.

Be cheerful. You can count on your friend not to be feeling his best. You are there as a support.

Think about what you will talk about before you arrive. Rehearse your conversation so you don't say the wrong thing. You'll be safe as long as you stay with positive subjects. If you ask about your friend's health, keep

the questions general. Your friend will offer details if he or she needs to unload. At that time, you'll need to be a good listener.

Speak softly and keep a relaxed atmosphere. Stand or sit close to your friend. Don't be afraid to touch his or her hand, arm or shoulder. Touches are needed; this gives reassurance.

Share a special verse of Scripture, and follow with a short prayer. Ask for God's comfort and strength for your friend. Remember to follow the same rules for praying that you follow for the rest of the visit. Pray quietly and with respect to both the patient and others nearby.

Make your stay brief. Fifteen minutes is usually long enough. If the patient is tired, it may even be shorter. Don't promise to visit again if you cannot guarantee that you will. When you promise, your friend will depend on your return.

Finally, never visit a friend in the hospital when you are sick. You have the options of sending a card or telephoning.

Your time is important. It is important to you and to your friends, especially when they are in need. Follow these guidelines and you can visit with confidence. \square

Nathan A. Boehm is minister of youth and Christian education at the Lansdowne Church of God Worship Center in Baltimore, Md.



harme WANDA LEROY

A smooth outer surface is sometimes a cover for troubling problems inside. . . .

"HI, BRAD, MIND IF I SIT DOWN?"

Brad looked up at the attractive girl standing before him and groaned inwardly. Sherry was the last person he wanted to see right now.

To avoid seeing anyone, he had purposely found a table in a secluded corner of the library.

"Uh, no problem, Sherry. Here, let me move these books." Brad hurriedly made space beside him at the table. Giving Sherry a tight smile, he pulled out a chair for her and turned back to his work, hoping desperately she couldn't sense his inner turmoil.

Things really haven't changed, Brad thought. His transferring to another school had failed to solve any problems. He was still fighting the same battles.

"Brad," Sherry's soft voice interrupted his thoughts, "I feel like you've been avoiding me. Is anything wrong?"

"You're imagining things, Sherry. Everything's great." Brad's quick glance took in the concerned look on Sherry's face.

"I don't believe you, Brad," Sherry persisted. "Something's bothering you, and I want to help."

The Charmer

Turning toward her, Brad's face relaxed into a lazy smile. "You take things too seriously, Sherry," he said. "By the way, have I told you how gorgeous you look in that blue sweater?"

Brad's smile faded as he turned away.

Something was wrong, but how could he explain it to Sherry? How could he admit to anyone that he really didn't have it together, that the popular man-about-campus was a failure?

His whole life had been a farce. His family and friends had always remarked about his looks, talents and accomplishments. When he was younger, his shortcomings had been overlooked. Someone was always ready to bail him out of difficult situations. He had learned early in life that physical attractiveness and good-natured charm blinded most people to character flaws. In high school he had always managed to get by at the last minute, usually because a friend covered for him or his teachers were lenient.

But college was different. His first semester at State had been a disaster. Luckily, he had made the right excuses so that his parents didn't blame him. He had transferred to Epworth, sincerely believing that the smaller student body and Christian atmosphere would work wonders. He had been wrong.

There was no problem with the students or the school in general. In fact, he had been accepted well and had been included in campus activities. That was the problem! He had

"You're so imageconscious you can't be real. You think you have to do everything and please everybody. . . ."

been accepted too well and included in too many activities. Now he was faced with reality. Once again, his campus life was flourishing at the expense of his academics.

"OK, Mr. Charm," Sherry said, breaking into Brad's thoughts. "You won't tell me, so I'll tell you about your problem. You're so image-conscious, Brad, that you can't be real. You think you have to do everything and please everybody. You've done this all semester and ignored your classwork. Right?"

with "Stick cheerleading, Sherry. It's much more becoming than psychology," Brad said with a grin.

"Cut it out, Brad. Your humor and charm won't work in this situation."

Brad shifted uncomfortably in his chair. She was right. He had three papers due in a week, plus several reading assignments. It was impossible! He had tried to come up with delay tactics—newschool phobia, roommate incompatibility, lost syllabi, computer wipeout, a broken arm or legbut these ideas had been quickly dismissed after a brief talk with Professor Smith. Her no-nonsense attitude had let him know that nothing short of a natural disaster or death would influence leniency. His image was blown. Now everyone would know what kind of person he really was.

"Look, Brad, I didn't mean to come down on you, but you've got to get your priorities straight. I really care about you, and I believe that somewhere inside is a real person who doesn't need to depend on looks or charm or other people to be successful," Sherry said.

"I've always heard that you get what you deserve. I guess I deserve this mess I'm in," Brad said soberly. For once, he didn't feel like being either charming or witty.

"You know, you can change your situation," Sherry said and smiled. "My brother was a lot like you until he found out he couldn't charm his way through life. He talked with a counselor and discovered that his basic problem was a spiritual one. He was so self-centered that his life had little room for God or anyone else. He's a different person now that his priorities are straight."

"I have to do something," Brad said quietly. "This is the second semester I've goofed up. Do you know anyone I can talk

"Talk to Pastor Anderson," Sherry said. With a mischievous twinkle in her eye, she added, "I can assure you he will be immune to your charming ways. He's the one who set my brother straight."

Bible Study MIRACLES

"WHAT'S A MIRACLE?" Craig, the youth minister, began.

"mmmfp brrrrkkkk thuummm mmmpfp "

It sounded like Joe was strangling, Craig thought, but at least he's saying something. Maybe he'll get involved.

"What did you say, Joe? Give us your definition of a miracle."

"Yeah, Joe," Angie chimed in. "C'mon. Tell Craig what you just said."

To the amusement of the youth group, Joe turned a surprising red.

"What's the matter?" Tim heckled. "Lose your nerve? Tell everybody what you just said."

Joe glared at Tim. "Scuzzball! I'm not afraid. . . ." Then in firm, clear tones he blurted, "I

said it's a miracle I'm at Bible study."

The whole group exploded in laughter.

"Hey, that's not a bad beginning," Craig interrupted. Joining the fun, he continued with mock seriousness, "Joe, we are honored that you have graced us with your presence. We hope that every time you can open up a Monday night in your busy schedule, you will thrill us again."

"Aw, you know what I mean.
. . ." Then Joe grinned, and

others joined the light banter.

After a couple of minutes, Craig picked up the reins of the conversation again. "Let's begin with Joe's statement. Our Bible study is on miracles. Why do you suppose Joe said his being here was a miracle?"

After a moment of silence, "Because he didn't expect to

refers to miracles as signs and wonders. A genuine miracle is an act of God.

"Now Joe has been cool. He has permitted us to have some fun with him. But this has introduced our topic for this evening: *Miracles*. We want to look particularly at miracles Jesus performed."

Explaining that there are at least four types of miracles recorded in the Bible, Craig turned to the marker board and wrote for all to see:

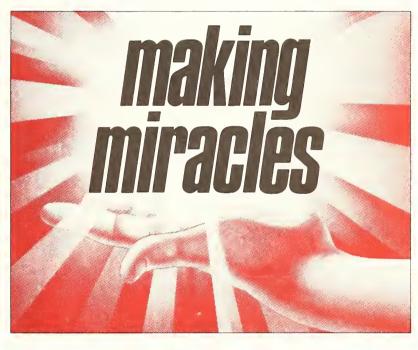
- 1. Miracles of nature
- 2. Miracles in human life
- 3. Miracles in national history
- 4. Miracles of healing

After about five minutes of discussion on the nature of mir-

acles in the Bible, the group was given a list of some of the miracles Jesus performed. Each member was asked to select one of the miracles, read it in the Bible and write a response to share with the group.

"Come back in 10 minutes, gang," Craig said, above the noise of scraping chairs and shuffling feet. "And Joe, you can go with Barb."

"Hey, I'm liking this group better all the time," Joe grinned.



come. . . ."

"Because it's not what usually happens. . . ."

"It's against his nature. . . ."
"Because it took an act of God, maybe?"

"Act of God, nothing," Tim muttered. "All it took was a date with Barb. . . ."

"Scuzz . . ."

"In a way you are all partly right," Craig insisted. "Miracles are unusual. A miracle is a result you would not expect from a particular set of circumstances. The Bible sometimes

MRACLES OF COMMENT OF

DURING HIS earthly ministry Jesus performed at least 35 specific miracles. Some of His miracles:

- He calmed a storm on the Sea of Galilee (Luke 8:22-25).
- He raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead (Luke 8:40-42, 49-56).
- He fed more than 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish (Luke 9:10-17).
- He walked on the water (John 6:15-21).
- He empowered Peter to walk on the water (Matthew 14:25-33).
- He fed more than 4,000 people in Decapolis with seven loaves of bread and a few fish (Matthew 15:29-38).
- He caused a coin to be in the mouth of a fish so He and His disciples could pay their taxes (Matthew 17:24-27).







MIRACLES OF HEALING

JESUS PERFORMED more miracles of healing than He did of any other kind. In addition to specific instances, there are several general descriptions of the multitudes crowding to Jesus to be healed. Jesus healed . . .

- a nobleman's son in Cana (John 4:46-54)
- a man in the Capernaum synagogue who had an evil spirit (Luke 4:31-37)
- Peter's mother-in-law (Luke 4:38, 39)
- a leper (Luke 5:12-16)
- a paralyzed man (Luke 5:17-26)
- a man at the Bethesda pool who had been crippled for 38 years (John 5:1-15)
- a man in the Capernaum synagogue who had a shriveled hand (Luke 6:6-11)
- a demon-possessed man in Decapolis (Luke 8:26-39)
- a woman with a bleeding ulcer (Luke 8:43-48)
- two blind men (Matthew 9:27-31)
- a demon-possessed man (Matthew 9:32-34)
- a Canaanite woman's daughter (Matthew 15:21-28)
- a man who couldn't speak or hear (Mark 7:31-37)
- a blind man in Bethsaida (Mark 8:22-26)
- a boy who was demon-possessed (Luke 9:37-43)

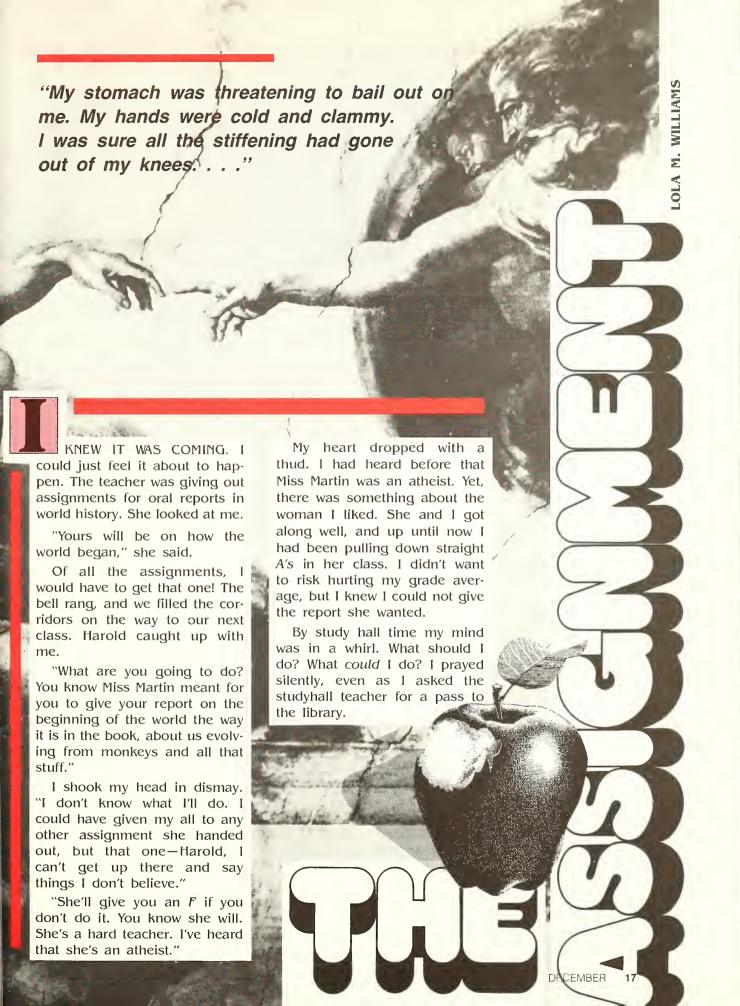
BibleStudy

MIRACLES



AND ME

EW words about something that happened to you or your family that miracle which only God could perform:
fully one of the miracles listed on the previous pages. Then write think God is saying to you through this portion of His Word:



We had two weeks before the reports were due, and during that time I spent extra time in prayer. "God, please, won't You help me? What should I do? Give me the strength to say the right thing even if she kicks me out of class." I was certain she would do just that.

I spent extra time in study. The librarian smiled, "You spend a lot of time here lately. You must be working on a big project." Clearly, in her opinion I was a student to be praised.

"You sure waste a lot of time in that library anymore," one of my friends who was not a Christian complained. "Every time I see you, you've got your nose in a book or you're carrying a stack of books home to study."

On the eve of D day (disaster day), I tossed and turned and punched my pillow. I could not sleep, wondering what Miss Martin would do when I gave my report. Finally, I prayed, "God, I've done my best. I've worked hard. Now I need my rest so I'll be in top shape for tomorrow, whatever happens."

I prayed. God heard. I slept. The clock on the wall showed that world history class was

more than half over. I had not been called on for my report yet. Maybe I won't have to give it until tomorrow, I thought. Maybe I'll be sick by then and won't have to come to school. You big coward! You might as well get it over with.

Afterward, Harold told me I had looked so calm before giving the report. Ha! A lot he knew! My stomach was threatening to bail out on me. My hands were cold and clammy. I was sure all the stiffening had gone out of my knees. If I looked calm, it was probably because I was in shock.

Miss Martin glanced at the clock. "We have time for one more report today, the one on how the world began."

This is it, I thought. I wondered if this was how the Christians felt just before they were thrown to the lions.

I could feel the tension in the air as I stood to my feet and walked to the front of the room. Every person in the class knew I was a Christian. I felt like I was on trial as I began to speak. I was careful to gaze just above their eyes, appearing to be looking right at them but actually seeing only the tops of their heads.

I heard the words coming out of my mouth, but I could not believe that smooth well-modulated voice was actually mine. My report lasted about 10 minutes. I had prepared well. I gave the account of how the world began as given in our text-books. I caught a glimpse of Harold's face. Was his expression relief or disappointment? I didn't know.

I paused only for an instant. Then, opening a Bible I had tucked beneath my outline, I said, "I have given you the ac-

count of how the world began according to our textbook. Now I would like to share with you the way it really happened. I will read the Creation account from the greatest book that has ever been written—the Bible."

By now I felt as calm as I looked. Without hesitation I read the first two chapters of Genesis. The classroom was quiet; there was only the sound of my voice reading. When I finished I looked up at my classmates. "That's how it really happened. I believe it with all there is of me."

Glancing at Miss Martin I expected to see disapproval registered on her face. Instead, there were tears glistening in her eyes.

Complete silence—then a thundering applause. The entire class stood to its collective feet. I couldn't believe it was really happening to me.

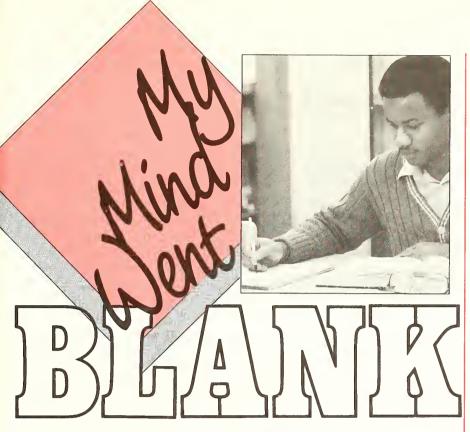
Before I had time to digest it all, Miss Martin strode over to me. Taking the outline out of my hand, she wrote a big A + across the front.

"That was the best report I have ever heard a student give, and I've been teaching for a number of years," she said. "You studied. You prepared well. You followed the assignment I gave you. But the last part of your report was given from your heart. I cannot believe the way you do, but I defend your right to believe it and express it.

"Class dismissed."

We moved out into the hall-ways. I felt as though I were living in another world. I had gone to class prepared to be crucified for my convictions, but God had turned it completely around.

Lola M. Williams, a free-lance writer, lives in Palm Bay, Fla. □



ALAN CLIBURN

IT WAS BETTY MARSDEN'S FAULT. Well, not really, but if she had been sitting up straight, I probably never would have done it.

Cheated, I mean.

OK, so I wasn't ready for the test. I admit that, but I still didn't plan to cheat. I mean it wasn't as if I told Betty to lean to the left while she was writing her answers or anything like that. She just did.

Even then I didn't think about copying what she wrote down. I don't usually do stuff like that. I am a Christian, and I know better. There was a time when I wouldn't have given it a second thought, but when I accepted Christ a year ago, I decided to really live for Him. That meant changing quite a few things in my life.

Of course this was different. The reason I wasn't ready for the test in the first place was because of church. Well, sort of, anyway. I mean somebody

had to volunteer to make posters to announce our next youth group activity, and God had given me a fair amount of artistic talent.

"Where's Tony?" I asked when I got to church. He was an even better artist than I was.

"Had to study for a test," Karen Kellogg replied. "He has Mrs. Quinlan for history, and her tests are really monsters."

"Yeah, I know," I agreed. "I have her this semester, too. In fact, Tony's in my class."

"Then what are you doing here, Darren?" the youth director wanted to know. "Are you ready for that test?"

"Not really," I admitted. "But I can study when I get home. I figure this is more important anyway—you know, doing the Lord's work and everything."

The youth director got a phone call about then, so Karen, Mark and I went to work on the posters. Nobody else

showed up, so it took until about 9 o'clock to finish them all.

"Hey, you people did a fantastic job!" the youth director exclaimed, coming around to inspect our work. "Good use of colors, Darren. I still think you should have stayed home and studied for the test, though."

"O ye of little faith!" I quoted dramatically, shaking my head.

Everybody laughed at my joke, but in a way it wasn't a joke at all. I mean it says right in the Bible that if we put God first in our lives, "all these things" will be added to us, or something like that. I didn't remember the exact verse, but it made sense. Why wouldn't He reward somebody for doing His work, after all?

I didn't go straight home after we finished the posters. Karen and Mark said they were going out for a pizza, so I decided to go along. "All that work made me hungry," I explained.

"But if you have that test in Mrs. Quinlan's class tomorrow—" Karen began.

"We aren't going to stay at the pizzeria all night, are we?" I asked.

"No, in fact the shorter the better," Mark replied. "I want to practice my speech for debate club when I get home."

Karen and I talked him into practicing on us while we were eating. It didn't take much persuasion. His topic was "How the World Came Into Being," and it was pretty heavy stuff, quoting scientists who were also Christians and everything. He had really done a lot of research on it.

We sat around talking about the whole subject of Creation versus the big bang theory, and I guess time just got away from us. It was 10:30 by the time I got home, and I was dead tired.

I had planned to get up early and do some last-minute studying before school, but that never worked for me—especially if I had been up later than usual the night before. As it was, I got to school just as the bell for first period was clanging away.

Nonetheless, I walked into fourth-period history feeling fairly confident. "Be anxious for nothing"—that was what the Bible said. I was a Christian, after all. God was on my side. I could handle some old test an ordinary human being teacher made up, couldn't I?

"Missed you at church last night," I whispered to Tony as I passed his desk. "We got the posters made, though."

"Guess I'm not as good in history as you are," he replied.

"Let's get started," Mrs. Quinlan began in that take-charge voice of hers.

I was OK until I looked at the first question on the test. She was asking for battle philosophies as well as dates. Battle philosophies? My mind went blank. I glanced over the other questions, looking for an easy one. There were none. Evidently the answers were all in chapter 11, a chapter I had never actually read.

I checked out the rest of the room. Nearly everybody was busy writing, including Tony. Paul Desmond and I were probably the only ones in the whole class who didn't know what to put down. Paul just shrugged when our eyes met briefly.

ffe didn't care if he passed or not—that's what he told me once. Of course Paul wasn't a Christian, either, and couldn't wait to get out of school. I tried to witness to him a couple of times, but he wasn't interested.

Up front Mrs. Quinlan was bent over her desk, probably correcting papers, judging from the red pencil in her hand. Occasionally she'd glance up, but not all that often.

Betty sure has nice handwriting, I thought suddenly. Easy to read, too. Before I knew what was happening, I was reading her answers, then rewriting them on my paper, except I'd change a few words around, of course. My heart was pounding so loud I was surprised nobody sitting near me heard it, but I kept right on copying her work . . . cheating. I couldn't believe that I would do anything like that, but that didn't stop me from doing it.

I had to pass this test, after all. It would be a rotten testimony if a Christian flunked a test, wouldn't it? And I had been at church the night before, not watching television or anything like that. It wasn't as if I had deliberately not studied. I mean somebody had to make those posters!

"Time!" Mrs. Quinlan announced as I dotted my final i. "All pencils or pens down."

I sat there like a zombie as she collected the papers and reminded us of our next assignment. It was almost as if I was outside myself looking in, and I didn't like what I saw.

What did you do? I demanded of myself, at once full of guilt and shame. All those arguments that had seemed so logical when I was copying Betty's answers fell apart as the full impact of what I had done hit me. Satan's lies, I thought. I had been warned of his methods often enough; I should have known better. But it was too late by then.

"Class dismissed," Mrs. Quinlan said as the bell rang.

"How'd you do?" Tony asked as we moved into the crowded hallway.

"I'm not sure," I replied. "How about you?"

"I creamed it!" he said with a grin. "You know that verse— 'Study to show yourself approved"?—well, it really works! See you later, Darren."

He had taken the verse out of context, just as I had done with so many others, but at least his seemed to make sense. "God, forgive me!" I prayed silently as I left the building and headed for the spot where some of the church kids met for lunch. I stopped before I got there, though. I didn't feel like being around anybody right then, not even Christians. Besides, I felt sick to my stomach.

So what are you going to do? I wondered. I shrugged. What could I do? There was no way I could un-cheat, after all, and I had already asked to be forgiven.

Yeah, but Mrs. Quinlan still has to grade your test, I reminded myself—or rather, Betty's test with your name on it! And you'll probably get an A, too—an A you didn't earn and don't deserve.

"Hey, that was pretty clever, Hetland," a voice began.

I glanced around to see Paul Desmond standing by a tree, hands in his pockets. "What are you talking about?" I asked, frowning.

"I'm not blind," he said. "I saw you eyeballing Betty's paper during the test."

"Paul-"

"Listen, don't worry," he went on. "I'm keeping my mouth shut. Everything's cool."

"Everything isn't 'cool,'" I corrected. "In fact, I'm on my way to tell Mrs. Quinlan what I did right now."

"You're crazy!" he informed me, mouth open. "Why would you do anything stupid like that?"

"Because cheating was stupid," I explained. "I don't know what made me do it, but I'm telling Mrs. Quinlan everything."

Paul looked at me disgustedly. "Man, I always thought you were kind of flaky, but now I'm sure of it. Wait a minute, does this have anything to do with your religious trip?"

"It's not a 'trip,'" I said. "But I'm a Christian, if that's what you mean, and Christians don't go around cheating on tests."

"Yeah, but you did," he reminded me.

"It's a long story," I answered. I'll tell you about it some other time. Right now I have to catch Mrs. Quinlan before she leaves for lunch.

"Yeah, you do that, sucker," Paul advised, stalking off toward the cafeteria.

Paul didn't seem too impressed by my honesty or the reason for it, I thought as I entered the building. Maybe what I had done would make it harder for me or anyone else to share Christ with him in the future. Or maybe later he'd think it over and be curious about my decision to confess.

There was no way of knowing, of course.

I didn't even know what Mrs. Quinlan's reaction would be. There was no doubt in my own mind that I was doing the right thing, however, and that meant a lot. I guess a Christian always knows what's right, though, if he's honest with himself and with the Lord.

Of course knowing and doing are two different things. \square

Alan Cliburn, a free-lance writer, lives in Van Nuys, Calif. □

FIRST STEPS

KEYS TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH

YLER REREAD THE CHAPTER. He still wasn't sure he understood. Maybe he should try reading something different in the Bible. When he accepted Christ as his Savior last month, he was told he should "grow as a Christian." But what does it mean to grow as a Christian, and how is it done?

Like Tyler, you have been told that you should grow as a Christian. Perhaps you're not exactly sure what to do or what is expected of you. Once you've accepted Christ as your Savior, you become a child of God. John 1:12 says, "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."

Once you've become a child of God, you begin to grow spiritually. You begin to learn more about God, Christ, the Bible and how to love as a Christian. The process of growth and maturation is gradual. Even if you've been a Christian for a long time, you can begin to grow now.

Growing from a child to a teenager gives you new skills and knowledge. You have grown in a fairly predictable pattern. The Christian life is not that way. Some Christians accept Christ and go no further. Others diligently study the Word, pray and grow at a rapid pace. The depth of your commitment to Christ and to growing will determine how fast you grow.

Here are some things you can do to help you grow as a Christian.



- Follow the Lord in baptism. When people in the Bible were converted to Christ, they were immediately baptized. This had nothing to do with their salvation but was a sign of identification with Christ. Christ himself was baptized, and we are baptized as a sign of His death, burial and resurrection.
- Have a daily quiet time. Spend time each day in the Word. The Bible says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible helps us to know how to live as we ought. It shows us where we are wrong and helps us know what is right.

Set aside a time each day to spend with God. It may be 10 minutes in the morning or a half hour before you go to bed. Find a quiet place where you can be alone. Choose a method of Bible reading you enjoy. For instance, you may want to read about a Bible character:

Samson, Judges 13-16 David, 1 and 2 Samuel Paul, Acts 9-28.

Try to find out who their parents were, where they were born, when they first believed in Christ, and what they did for God.

You may enjoy studying a theme or idea in the Bible such as faith, prayer or love.

Read through an entire book of the Bible. Ask yourself, "What does it tell me about God, Christ or the Bible? What does it tell me about Christian living? How can I apply this to my life today?" Start with a book like

1 John, Philippians, or James. They are fairly easy to understand and interesting.

• **Pray daily.** Communication with God is an important part of your Christian life. Think of the godly men in the Bible who prayed:

Adam talked with God in the Garden.

Elijah prayed on Mount Carmel and caused fire to fall from heaven.

Daniel prayed by his window three times a day.

- 1. Everyone has sinned, Romans 3:23.
- 2. The penalty for sin is death, Romans 6:23a.
- 3. God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to pay the penalty, Romans 6:23b.
- 4. Everyone must accept Christ personally, Romans 10:9, 10.

Practice saying the outline in your own words. Practice on your family or a friend until you feel comfortable enough to witness to a friend who has not accepted Christ. In 1 Peter 3:15

Witnessing is a way of life . . . if you don't know what to say, follow this outline. . . .



Paul and Silas prayed in prison.

Christ prayed on the mountainside and in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Your prayers should include confession of wrongdoing, adoration of God for who He is, thanksgiving to God for what He has done, an intercession (asking) for yourself and for others. Make a list of your requests, and check them off as they are answered.

• Witness at every opportunity. Many Christians panic at the thought of witnessing, but it is just telling others what Christ has done for you. Witnessing is a way of life for the Christian. If you get confused or don't know what to say, follow this outline: we are told, "Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you." Be ready to tell others what God has done for you.

• Get involved in a local church. Try to get as much out of the service as possible. Take part in the singing and Scripture reading. Listen closely during the sermon for things you can apply to your own life during the week. If it helps you, take notes. Find out if there are ministries you can get involved invisitation, children's church, youth choir, and so forth.

Christian growth isn't a hard-to-understand concept; it's a step-by-step gradual maturation in your Christian life.

It is walking daily with the Lord. \square

Christmas won't seem the same this year without Mom. . . .



MY BROTHER, ADAM, AND I had a pretty good time Christmas shopping. We bought presents, saw the store displays, listened to Christmas carols and waited for the bus at a church with a Nativity scene. Still, it didn't seem much like Christmas to us.

When we got off the bus and walked home through the snow, it got darker and the streetlights came on. By the time we reached our street, all the houses were blazing with Christmas lights and decorations—all except ours. It was dark.

We turned in at our walk and trudged up to the door. I helped Adam pull off his boots, then BETTY LOU MELL

fumbled in my pocket for the house key. Inside I was helping Adam out of his coat when there was a knock on the front door.

"Who's that?" Adam asked, eyes wide.

I laughed. "Do you think I have X-ray vision?"

I flicked on the front light, pushed the curtain aside and looked through the glass. "Mrs. Hanley," I said over my shoulder. I greeted her at the door, "Hello, Mrs. Hanley. Would you like to come in?"

"No, thank you, Robert," she smiled. "I just came to give you some Christmas cookies and to inquire about your mother."

I took the box she offered. "Thank you. Mom's doing fine. Dad's at the hospital now."

"I know," she said kindly. "I see him going every night. It's such a long drive, too. Do you know if she'll be home for Christmas?"

"We hope she will be," I said with a shrug. "But it's hard to say right now."

"Well, I'm still praying for her, and if there's anything I can do, tell your father I'd be happy to help."

"Thank you, ma'am," I replied.

She waved and stepped off the porch.

"Why'd she give us cookies?" Adam asked.

"Just to be nice," I replied.

Adam was fast asleep when I heard Dad pull into the driveway. As the front door opened and closed, I swung my legs over the side of the bed and tiptoed along the hall and down the stairs. I could see Dad sitting in his chair, staring. He still had his coat on, and in the firelight he looked very, very tired. I joined him, plopped on a chair, and Dad smiled at me. Then we watched the fire in silence.

Finally, Dad unbuttoned his coat, stood and removed it. "Did you take Adam shopping?" he asked.

"Yeah." I nodded. "He spent all his money."

Dad smiled, then slung his coat over the couch and sat back down again.

"Mrs. Hanley brought some cookies over when we got home."

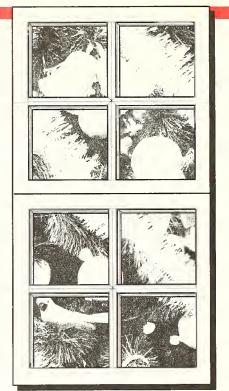
"That was nice of her."

"Dad . . .? Do you think Mom will be home for Christmas?"

"I don't know, Son. I'm almost afraid to ask her doctors—if she gets her hopes up, and then . . .?"

"Yeah, I know, like at Thanks-giving."

"Yes, that was an awful letdown." He folded his hands and continued to stare into the fire.



"Well, I'm going back to bed," I yawned. "You should, too. You look beat."

"I will, Son," he replied. "And thank you."

"For what?"

"For watching out for Adam and helping so much—you've been a big help."

"That's OK, Dad,"

I crawled into bed and stared at the ceiling, remembering other Christmases when everyone laughed and was happy. This year the house seemed hollow and empty. The people seemed hollow and empty. This year, I felt like Christmas was coming at the wrong time all the way around.

Two days before Christmas, Dad came home a little later than usual and tooted the car horn. Adam ran to the window. "A Christmas tree!" he shouted excitedly.

I grabbed my jacket, yanked on my boots, then went and

helped him unload it. "Great, Dad!" I grinned. "I was beginning to think we weren't having a tree this year."

Dad grinned. "No matter what, Christ's birth is a time for celebration!"

I nodded. When we got the tree into the house, we put it into the stand and began turning it to see which was the best side.

"Now it has to thaw," Dad said once it stood straight and tall. "Tomorrow, we'll trim it."

"That's Christmas Eve!" Adam pouted. "Why can't we trim it tonight?"

"The tree has to warm up first," Dad explained. "And I'm going to the hospital tonight!"

"Boy!" Adam frowned. "Everyone has their tree trimmed, but us! It doesn't seem like Christmas around here!" He turned and pounded up to his room.

"He doesn't understand," Dad said quietly.

"He'll be OK," I replied. "I'll get him to play some games, and I'll talk to him."

Dad glanced at his watch, "Well, I have to go," he sighed.

The day before Christmas, as soon as Dad left for work, I took Adam to the attic.

"We'll take the decorations down," I said. "But remember, decorations aren't all there is to Christmas. Neither are gifts; Christmas is a time for loving and accepting God's greatest gift—Jesus Christ."

"I know," Adam said. "But it will just seem more like Christmas once we get the tree trimmed. Then we'll be all ready for Jesus to come."

"I guess you're right," I nodded. "At least, we'll be ready for anything." We trimmed the tree, and I cut some low branches off and draped them on the mantel. Then Adam set up the Nativity scene on the hall table like Mom always does. Then the phone rang. "Hello . . . I mean, Merry Christmas," I said as I answered it.

"Merry Christmas to you, Son," Dad laughed over the line. "How's it going?"

"Fine, Dad. Just fine."

"Good. I called to tell you I'm only working till noon today, then I'm going to make a quick visit to see your mother. We'll trim the tree when I get home, OK?"

"Sure, Dad. Give Mom our love and tell her we'll all see her tomorrow."

"I will, Son. Good-bye."

"Dad will be home later, Adam, so we have time," I grinned.

"Time for what?"

"Well, to finish putting lights in the window, the manger in the yard."

"With baby Jesus?" he asked.

"Of course!" I said. "Then we'll decorate the pine tree beside the driveway. Hand me the wreath; I have an idea. Come on, we have to make it cheery for Dad."

"What's your idea?" Adam asked impatiently.

"You'll see," I replied.

We worked all afternoon, and before we knew it, it was getting dark and puffy snowflakes were falling again. Outside, trees glistened with sparkling, crystalclear ice, and the hedges wore a blanket of beautiful snow. Soon everyone in the neighborhood turned on their Christmas lights, and they twinkled on the

snow like a thousand candles announcing Christ's birth.

"Will Dad be cheered up?" Adam asked with a hopeful grin.

"I think so," I replied. "He misses Mom something awful."

"So do I," Adam frowned.

"Yeah . . . I know."

Soon, Dad's car pulled into the driveway. Adam turned on our lights, and I pressed the "on" button of the stereo. "Silent Night" filled not only our house but the neighborhood as well.

"Those old speakers work!" Adam grinned. "Do you think Dad will care that you put them out on the porch?"

"I don't think so," I replied.
"He'll like sharing our carols with everyone."

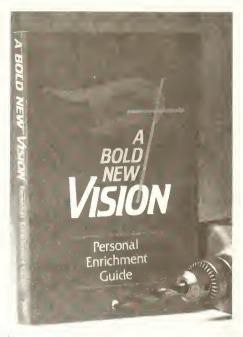
We watched Dad's car from behind the curtains, and at first I thought he wasn't coming in. It looked like he was just going to sit there and look at the lights and listen to the music. Then he opened the door and got out. Dad went around the car and opened the other door. Carefully, he helped someone out of the car. My heart started really racing.

Adam grabbed my arm and jumped up and down hysterically. "It's Mom!" he shouted. "Mom's come home!"

We raced out of the house, wondering if this could be a dream. I felt as giddy as my little brother was acting! Mom hugged Adam, then looked up and held out her arms to me.

Christmas didn't come at the wrong time at all! In fact, it was right on time, and in my heart—in all our hearts—Jesus was born anew.

Betty Lou Mell lives in Pittsburgh, Pa.



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LIGHT CHRIST& FANTASY

CHRISTMAS IS THE BIGGEST holiday of the year. No season is busier. It is a celebration of Christ's birth. It is also a time of constant motion and movement, as well as a time of fantasy.

Visit the malls and shopping centers. Christmas means crowding and jamming, jostling and shoving, pushing and hurrying. Finding even a simple gift seems to involve a frenzy of activity.

That is, if you can find a place to park. Highways are crowded at Christmastime. Streets are filled to overflowing. Sidewalks jam with people. Stores bulge with crowds of intense shoppers. Groaning mailboxes strain from a glut of catalogs, sale papers, fliers, greeting cards and bills.

Christmas, always, is music. Songs are everywhere. Go where you will, you cannot escape them. Music comes from compact discs and tapes, from radio and television and VCR, from bells and performing choirs. Endless carols and anthems constantly hurry you along, from store to store.

MARCUS V. HAND

Christmas music sometimes takes the form of mindless ditties and sacrilegious tunes, performed by everything from Singing Chipmunks to computers and out-of-this-world aliens.

Inexplicably, all of this is supposed to get us "in the Christmas spirit."

Richard Lewis, a missionary in Kitale, Kenya, once tried to explain pictures from an American magazine to some African nationals in a small village. "My Swahili fell far short," he said.

He pointed to a familiar figure and said, "I guess you all know who that is." They looked at the picture and replied, "No, who is he?"

"Aw, come on," Richard said. "Surely you know him. He's a very famous person."

"I turned to David, a Ugandan pastor, who got out of his chair and studied the picture for a long time. Finally he said, 'I don't know, Missionary. He looks like a fat old mzungu [white man] with a white beard."

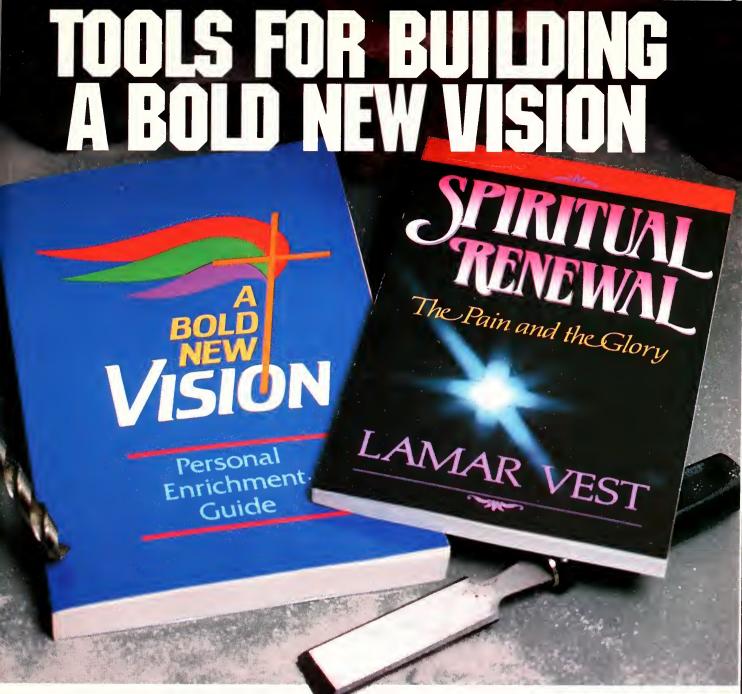
"I was stunned. 'You mean vou've never heard of Santa Claus? You've never heard about this guy who lives in the North Pole, where it rains ice [the best translation I could give for snow], and who makes toys all year? You've never heard how on Christmas Eve he flies all over the world in a sleigh pulled by reindeer, giving toys to good boys and girls?'

"They sat there, staring at

"I drove back to our home in the highlands, thinking of the contrast between the 'heathen' in the bush of Kenya and the 'cultured' in America.

"In Kenya, Christmas means the birth of Jesus. On Christmas Day, most Kenyan Christians will attend church to remember the Lord's advent. But in America many will be tempted to stay out of church on December 25 because of Saint Nick's early morning arrival. Can you imagine Christmas without Santa?"

Pentecostal teens should avoid this trap. On Christmas morning go to your church and worship Jesus, the King.



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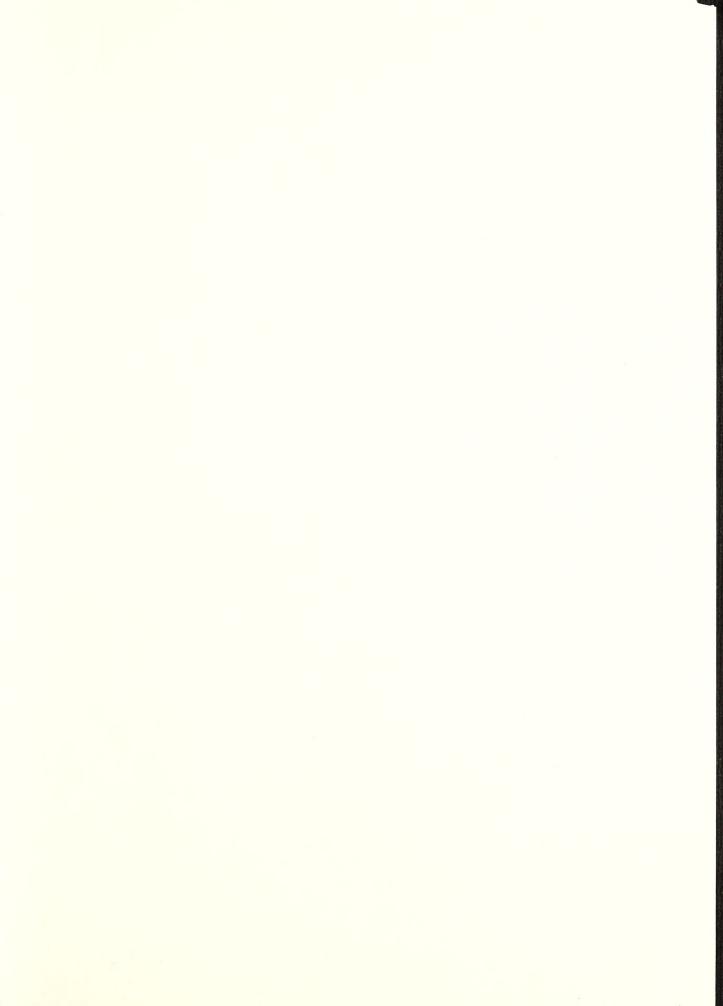
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